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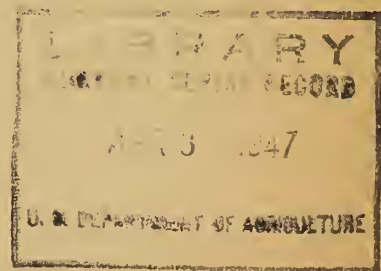
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DAILY FARM NEWS DIGEST
(For April 2, 1947)

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APR 4 1947

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Office of Information
Washington 25, D.C.

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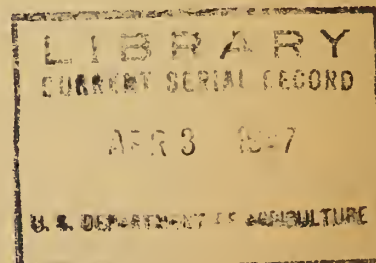
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Dr. F. C. Bishop of the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine at Washington, who spoke at the opening of the thirty fourth annual meeting of the New Jersey Mosquito Extermination Association, said:

"Much new and valuable information on the mosquitos of the world—their identity and their habits, their potentialities for disease transmission and how to combat them—has appeared in all quarters of the globe."

FIRM PRICES FOR FOOD SEEN TILL LATE IN '47-Washington-Consumers can expect food prices to hold near present levels during the next few months, largely because of their own lusty demands, the Agriculture Department said today.

Prices also will continue to get some support, the agency said, from export buying and market speculation in some commodities, particularly grains.

With industrial production at a peacetime record level, consumers as a group have sufficient buying power, officials said, to purchase quality food at rates considerably above prewar levels.

Nevertheless, the department expects food prices to decline during the latter part of the year. It has said farm prices may drop as much as 20 percent if its forecast of a business recession late this year is borne out.

The department said it is possible that wheat, which advanced sharply during March and then receded, may go up again before the new harvest but not to the March peak.

It said meat and livestock prices in general are likely to continue high through the spring and early summer, with slight declines for better quality beef and lamb a possibility.

Milk and dairy products are expected to drop to lower levels by June, while eggs are expected to continue near present levels during the next few months.

The department forecast a downturn in the present exceptionally high prices of food fats and oils by late summer.

Somewhat lower priced cotton was foreseen but slightly higher fruit prices were forecast for the spring.

FARM SAFETY WEEK SET-Washington-President Truman, in designating the week beginning July 20 as National Farm Safety Week, called attention today to the additional accident hazards caused by the complexity of modern farm machinery. "I request all persons and organizations concerned with agriculture and farm life to cooperate in the observance of this fourth annual National Farm Safety Week," the President said, adding: "I also urge farm people everywhere to set aside a specific time during National Farm Safety Week for family discussions of methods for the prevention of accidents, in order that these producers of the nation's food may live and work with greater safety."

From New York Times, April 3 -

TUNG OIL YEILD SOARS IN GULF COAST AREAS-Tung oil, or China wood oil, unsurpassed as a fast drying and water proofing ingredient for paints, is streaming in new record volume from pressing mills near tung groves in the Gulf Coast States.

The domestic harvest, less than one ton in 1924, climbed to 6,200 tons in 1943 and 47,300 tons in 1946, of which about 7,000 tons of oil could be extracted. That is about one tenth of imports from China in some prewar years, and an estimated one thirtieth of the amount the American paint industry could use in 1947.

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From N.Y. Journal of Commerce, April 3 -

LUMBER OUTPUT SEEN REVIVING OLD STANDARDS-The first signs of stabilization of the lumber markets are now visible in the main Southern and Western producing areas, giving promise of at least a partial realignment of grading policies to prewar competitive standards this year.

Reflecting a sharpening of competition among lumber producers, the dominant manifestation of this trend toward prewar standards is revealed in a greater willingness among sellers to "do a little more to please the customer."

It has meant, so far, that buyers in many cases can secure the exact sizes and dimensions of lumber they need instead of being forced to accept "random lots," and that buyers, in a smaller number of cases, can purchase more uniformly graded supplies.

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WOOL GROWERS URGE ADOPTION OF LONG RANGE LEGISLATION-Unless some high Government official interceded quickly, the United States will be faced with a dying wool growing industry at a time of increasing international uncertainty trade sources declared yesterday.

The amended Robertson wool bill which has been sent by the Senate Agricultural Committee to the Senate, in effect, raises the support price to wool growers by 2¢ a grease pound but takes no action to secure for the wool growing industry a permanent long range program which it is believed, alone can offer sufficient inducement to sheep raisers to begin increasing the number of livestock.

There is a possibility wool sources stated, that some sort of quota legislation will be passed which would grant the grower additional protection from foreign imports, something which compares to the British Joint-Organization program.

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From Wall Street Journal, April 3 -

WORRIED WOOL MEN-Boston-The spectre of Government wool monopoly is sending shudders up and down Summer Street.

(The Wall Street Journal begins a long front page article on the situation of the Boston fleece dealers in this vein.) In an editorial "What Price Wool? the concluding paragraph reads: "If Congress were to give American sheep owners a two-year guaranty of 90 percent of parity it would be doing for them only what it has done for the majority of farmers under a sufficiently dubious policy of interfering with a normal economy. How it can fairly be asked to do far more for the wool-raising industry at the taxpayer's expense passes our comprehension."

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From Lexington (Ky.) Herald Leader, Mar. 30 -

COTTON'S COMEBACK. - A poll of planters conducted by the Department of Agriculture reveals that 99 per cent of those questioned believe that cotton growing may boom again.

Last Year's crop was picked from 17.6 million acres compared with 24 million acres in prewar years.

Of the farmers questioned in the poll 68 per cent expressed the view that the labor shortage was mainly responsible for the smaller acreage planted to cotton during the last few years.

Twenty-three per cent credited the shift to other crops, but most of them believed that big cotton crops are on the way back.

Even the young farmers can recall the huge surpluses of cotton built up on the prewar 24-million-acre plantings and the difficulties the producers and the government met with in disposing of them.

A combination of war-created demand and smaller crops finally cleaned up those surpluses.

Perhaps the farmers had better think twice or three times before going back to those huge cotton crops which produced more lint than the market could absorb.

The rapid industrialization of the South is creating a growing demand for food crops and livestock which may prove to be more profitable than surplus cotton production.

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From Cincinnati Times-Star, Apr. 19 -

\$3 WHEAT - Rarely in the 99-year history of futures trading on the Chicago Board of Trade has the price of wheat reached \$3. Highest was in 1917, when the top price was \$3.25. Tuesday the price of March wheat briefly topped \$3, after having risen 80 cents a bushel since February 1. The rise, also reflected in retail wheat prices, comes home to the housewife in the one-cent increase in the price of a loaf of bread.

Immediate reason for the swift rise in wheat futures was the corner in which the short-contract brokers were being caught. But the rise in the price of cash wheat is not due to a rigged market, but to the terrific increase in foreign demand. Last August the United States set an objective of 267,000,000 bushels for export by July, 1947. That goal was later raised to 350,000,000 bushels. This country has to make good, as far as it can, the war-created shortages in many lands abroad.

We used to be the third largest wheat producer, ranking behind Russia and China. After the late war had done with Russia we led the procession. We must now carry a gigantic burden, which the box-car shortage has worsened. The problem would be far worse, and more Europeans and Asiatics would be starving today, were it not for the fact that our last year's crop was an all-time high and this year's crop promises to be even greater.

Farmers with long memories are thinking back to the bust that followed the World War I boom. During May, 1920, the Kansas City cash price averaged \$2.93 a bushel. Five months later it had dropped 50 cents and 12 months later to \$1.33. In December, 1932, the average was 42 cents a bushel, which meant around 30 cents at the farm.

No such bust is expected now or in the near future, if ever. The demand for wheat is bound to continue high for some time to come. But the increase in wheat prices is a vivid testimonial to the job which the United States is now doing to help feed the world.

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From Atlanta (Ga.) Constitution, Mar. 31 -

WE CAN'T STAND THIS LOSS - For 200 years now America's natural resources have made ours the richest land in the world. They have enabled our people to build the highest standard of living known in history. In two world wars it was America that supplied the materials for victory over the aggressors. So abundant were our natural resources that our people, thinking they were inexhaustible, used them wastefully.

The day of reckoning is arriving. One has only to drive down any highway in Georgia to see the results of this waste and extravagance. While farmers plow unconcernedly in nearby fields, forest fires are eating up thousands of dollars worth of timber — timber that is sorely needed now for new homes. And those fires are killing millions of young trees which would have gone into the homes of our children and grandchildren. Everywhere the results of this neglect are visible. Even where fires have not consumed the trees they lie brown and crisp — dead from heat of the flames underneath when they should be green and growing for our future needs.

The State Forestry Department estimated that in the four months ending March 1, forest fires destroyed timber worth \$4,000,000. Hundreds of thousands of dollars more have been lost since the report was issued. Eighty-five percent of the losses were preventable and 40 percent were caused by deliberate burning of the woods.

The time was when the loss of \$4,000,000 worth of timber was no cause for alarm, for there were hundreds of millions worth more. Today the story is different. We are using timber faster than it is being grown and the prospects for our lumber supply in the future are growing dim. Everytime a landowner puts a match to the woods he is depriving some member of the coming generation of a home. And he is perhaps depriving the country of a vital material which would enable it to survive in a future war.

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From Watertown (N.Y.) Daily Times, Mar. 31 -

SIRUP CROP IS STILL DOUBTFUL - The maple syrup crop of northern New York will either establish a new record or will wind up a complete lure this spring, depending on the type of weather to be experienced here within the next three days, according to Levi L. Hunt of the Gouverneur Maple Syrup Producers Cooperative. The producers need warm weather badly, accompanied with a bountiful humidity. The number of trees tapped is about equal to that of last year. Prices have skyrocketed to as high as \$8 per gallon. Labor and fuel are scarce.

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From New Orleans Times-Picayune - Mar. 31 -

MILK COOP BLAMES STRIKERS - The Dairy Farmers' Cooperative Association of Kentwood repudiated the milk strike of union dairymen and denounced their resort to force an intimidation. President W. P. Wilson of the Cooperative Association said that union action in precipitating the strike had prevented a scheduled meeting of the association with the New Orleans milk producers scheduled last Tuesday.

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(The newspapers and magazines from which these agricultural items are taken are on file in Press Service, Room 414A. Phone Gene Harrison at 6031)

From N.Y. Journal of Commerce, April 4 -

FIND WOOL GLUTS WORLD MARKETS-London-There is too much wool for glutted markets to absorb in a world in which millions need clothing, an international wool study group decided at the conclusion of a conference here today. The wool surplus, a statement by the group said, still presents a formidable problem.

Last June governments and wool dealers were holding about 5,000,000,000 pounds of wool. The study group estimated that by next June these holdings would be reduced to 4,500,000,000 pounds—still too much to allow for orderly marketing without tight controls and international understandings.

American policies, it was agreed by the wool experts of 25 nations attending, may have a profound bearing on the world situation. The American Government, through the Commodity Credit Corp., holds more than 450,000,000 pounds of wool. Selling it at current prices, as advocated by some American agricultural leaders, could demoralize markets of other lands.

SUPPORT PRICE RISE BOLSTERS EGG TRADE-Receipts 43,459 cases. Increase in May support price was having a bolstering effect upon sentiment and upon the market following Wednesday's declines.

ARGENTINE MEAT SURPLUS EARMARKED FOR BRITAIN-London-Argentina's whole exportable surplus of meat will come to Great Britain for the next few months to ease the shortage resulting from livestock losses in this country during the winter, Food Minister John Strachey said today.

Strachey added, however, in a House of Commons statement, that despite "this most welcome and helpful gesture" the danger of a shortage remains, because of the large number of cattle lost in the floods and deep snow.

HOUSE SETS HEARING ON FARM PROGRAM-Washington-The House Agriculture Committee will start hearings April 21 with the intention of providing a long range national farm program to replace wartime laws.

Chairman Hope (Rep. Kan.) announcing the plan, said Secretary of Agriculture Anderson will be the first witness, followed by the heads of the national farm organizations and others interest in farm problems.

The hearings, Mr. Hope said in a statement, will be the most comprehensive agricultural program discussions in many years.

Mr. Hope said it was not planned to introduce legislation this session based on the hearings but the material will be in hand on which the committee can recommend long range policies to be considered next session.

The wartime present farm price support program is due to expire Dec. 31, 1948.

From N.Y. Journal of Commerce, April 4 -

HOG MARKET-Chicago hog prices were 25c to 75c higher yesterday, with a top of \$27 compared with \$26.50 the previous day. Salable receipts amounted to 4,000 head, while 3,000 went to packers on direct consignment.

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WHEAT DELEGATES HELD OPTIMISTIC-London-Two members of the American delegation to the International Wheat Conference plan a quick air trip to Washington for further consultation with the United States Government on the question of prices for export wheat, informed sources said tonight.

The International Wheat Conference, attended by delegates of 40 nations trying to devise methods of stabilizing world wheat prices and supplies, adjourned last night until April 14.

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PACKAGE DEMAND FOR SUGAR IMPROVES-Demand for refined sugar continued to expand yesterday as a larger volume of ration evidence came into circulation since the new stamp No. 11 was validated for 10 pounds on April 1. The concentrated buying was for package sugars. Thus far, the buying has not extended to offshore supplies.

Marketwise there were no new developments. Trade interests were beginning to discuss possible extension of the Sugar Act of 1937 which expires at the year end for another year in its present form. Also there was some talk about extension of export controls, which expire on June 30, to cover shipments of refined to European countries beyond that date.

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From New York Herald Tribune, April 4 -

ACTION ON SUGAR CALLED BLOW TO FOOD CANNERS-Termination of sugar controls by Congress as of Oct. 31 and its failure to provide sufficient sugar for proper processing of this year's crop of fruits and vegetables when it voted such action have presented the nation's food canners "with a first rate financial, marketing and labeling dilemma," M. L. Toulme, executive vice president of the National - American Wholesale Grocers' Association, declared yesterday.

Despite the warnings and pleas against such action, backed by the unanimous weight of opinion in the food industry, Congress voted early end of sugar controls, he said. In doing so, Mr. Toulme charged, Congress has "unnecessarily" faced all producers, users, processors and distributors of sugar "with grave speculative risks."

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From Wall Street Journal, April 4 -

CONSTRUCTION COSTS HAVE REACHED PEAK, 53% OF COUNTRY'S BUILDERS SAY -Some 53% of the country's general contractors believe that the peak in construction costs has been reached; according to a survey of 268 builders made by the F.W. Dodge Corp.

In some areas, particularly in New England, the South Atlantic states and the eastern part of the South Central states, opinion was preponderant, at least two to one, that costs would rise no higher. Opinion was general, in the Pacific states that the peak has not yet been reached.

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From Lt. Louis (Mo.) Post-Dispatch, Apr. 2 -

FARMERS AS A PRESSURE GROUP - Editorial - Wheat growers complain that it is not they, but the speculators, who benefit when wheat rises toward \$3. This is only partly true. The speculators and grain dealers get most of the profit in the rise in the price of last year's wheat, but the movement also affects the price of the crop to be harvested next summer.

We have made the point that the public whose taxes subsidize agriculture and guarantee farmers a fair price for crops in poor times should be protected from runaway inflation in farm prices. There is no such protection now and every time someone rises in Congress to propose that protection be provided, the farm lobby swats him down.

Judging from letters we have received, some farmers recognize that this is wrong. They see that it is unfair and they see also that high swings in farm prices cause overly large plantings of the high-priced commodity and bring a dangerous reaction.

But the number who see this is small. Until their number increases and they band together to counteract the influence of the more greedy farmers who call the signals for the farm lobby, there is no danger of speaking too harshly of farmers as a pressure group.

That applies not only to wheat and cotton farmers, who have prevented proper regulation of the futures market, but also to other groups such as wool growers, who through tariffs and subsidies reach into the consumers' pockets for a billion dollars a year.

Farmers are just as unprepossessing a pressure group as any other -- and far more powerful than most. Their greed can be counteracted only by the outcry of organized consumers, and such an outcry is overdue.

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From Chicago Daily Tribune, Apr. 3 -

PRICES OF CORN, WHEAT BREAK ONE DAY LIMIT; CAUSED BY WANING EXPORT DEMAND - Wheat futures broke 10 cents a bushel and corn 8 cents yesterday on the Chicago Board of Trade yesterday on selling attributed to waning export demand.

Selling was attributed mainly to reports that April and May export commitments for wheat flour and corn by the government are nearly filled and to the excellent outlook for the new winter wheat crop. Altho export sales of 720,000 bushels of corn were made to England and 180,000 bushels to Holland Tuesday and the government took 365,000 bushels, the business had no effect on prices.

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From New York Herald Tribune, Apr. 3 -

FARM PRICES HOLD; U. S. IS EATING WELL BUT AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT SEES 20% PRICE DROP - Washington - Keen American appetites for plenty of good food -- and a willingness to pay for it -- are helping to hold farm prices at high levels.

The Agriculture Department so reported today, adding that this heavy domestic demand is getting considerable assistance from expectations that exports may be larger than foreseen and from "speculative buying" in the grain markets.

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From New York Herald Tribune, Apr. 3 -

SHIP SHORTAGE CUTS ARGENTINE MEAT AND WOOL; PATAGONIAN PACKING PLANTS FACE CLOSING; HALF OF SEASON'S SHEARING UNSOLD - Rio Gallegos, Argentina--Meat-packing plants dotting Patagonia's coast must curtail or cease operations, and half of the wool crop in this vast region of southern Argentina may go unsold unless shipping is provided immediately, officials here said today.

Wool buyers said that only half of Patagonia's 1946-47 crop (the shearing season is in December, January and February) has been purchased, because ships cannot be provided for transporting the crop to world markets. A prominent firm said the demand is great for Patagonian wool, but clients in the United States and England refuse to purchase it unless shipment can be guaranteed, and this is impossible.

The Argentine government holds a monopoly on the buying and selling of mutton and lamb and arranges shipping, but the government has not interfered in the rich wool market. Shippers receive from \$3.50 to \$4.25 a head for lambs and sheep delivered at the freezer. Wool brings 22 to 27 cents a pound delivered on the beach.

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ARMY WILL TURN TO WOOL COVERT TO MEET NEEDS; LACK OF OFFERS OF SERGE FOR UNIFORMS FORCES STEP; TO SEEK THREE MILLION YARDS - The Army announced yesterday it was being compelled to seek woollen covert cloth for uniforms because it had been unable to obtain its requirements of the traditional wool serge despite every effort, including relaxation of its standards for uniform cloth. The Army Quartermaster Corps for months has been seeking to obtain bids on 10,700,000 yards of 18 ounce uniform serge, but even the lowering of standards failed to bring in sufficient amounts.

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From Baltimore Sun, Apr. 3 -

FOOD INDUSTRY CUTS DOWN ON INVENTORIES - New York - There is a general disposition in the food industry to get inventories down because of the uncertainty of future price levels, Gordon C. Corbaley, president of the Institute of Food Distribution, said today.

Stating that there is no panicky atmosphere in cutting down stocks by retailers, wholesalers and processors, Corbaley added that the industry has leaned toward getting inventories in better shape since last December.

"There has been a feeling that some prices were too high and that over a period of time some would come down," he said. "Despite the bulge in cereal and some other commodity prices, the average of all retail food prices is easing downward fractionally month by month."

In Washington, the Department of Agriculture said farm prices should hold at "high levels during the next few months," but repeated its previous forecast they would turn downward during the second half of the year, possibly as much as twenty per cent. That prediction was said to be based largely upon expectation of a slight industrial recession later this year.

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DAILY FARM NEWS DIGEST
(For April 10, 1947)U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Office of Information
Washington 25, D.C.

(The newspapers and magazines from which these agricultural items are taken are on file in Press Service, Room 414. Phone Gene Harrison at 6013.)

From New York Times, April 10 -

GRAIN PRICES RISE AFTER SLOW START-Chicago-Grain markets closed strong on the Board of Trade today, the reverse of yesterday. Although the markets were slow to respond to an announcement that a special Cabinet meeting held in Washington had taken no action in regard to the price situation, commission houses gradually absorbed the offerings and late in the day short covering got under way when May wheat started to act tight, and closing trades were about at the top.

Buying of May wheat by a cash interest with Southwestern connections were accompanied by reports that fairly liberal sales of flour had been made to the Government, and the upturn was helped by an advance of 2 cents in cash wheat premiums at Kansas City and Minneapolis.

Spring wheat seeding is making a slow start. A little field work has been done in eastern South Dakota but none elsewhere, according to reports. A Department of Agriculture estimate on the winter wheat crop will be issued after the close tomorrow.

COTTON ADVANCES BY 28 TO 42 POINTS-With trading moderately active, the cotton futures market on the New York Cotton Exchange closed 28 to 42 points net higher yesterday, slightly off from the best levels of the day.

Opening unchanged to 11 points lower, prices gained strength as the session progressed. The early selling was a sequel to the easier gray goods market and some outside liquidation based on uncertainty regarding the President's Cabinet meeting on the price situation.

From N.Y. Journal of Commerce, April 10 -

PRESIDENT AIDS FIRE PREVENTION-President Truman, leading the great influence to the cause of fire prevention, has called a conference in Washington May 6-8 to consider means for checking the tremendous and growing loss of life and property by fire. It is anticipated that some 3,000 State and municipal authorities, fire department officials, Army and Navy officers charged with supervision of fire prevention activities during the war, fire prevention experts and others will attend.

WORLD CAN USE ALL OUR EXPORT COTTON-Dallas-Foreign markets will purchase every bale of American cotton which can be made available for export next year, but on a long-run basis the volume of this country's cotton exports is dependent principally on price and foreign purchasing power, Read Dunn, Jr., foreign trade director of the National Cotton Council, told the Texas Cotton Ginners Association here today. Mr. Dunn estimated the total American type cotton available for export from all countries outside the U.S. during the next year at about 4,750,000 bales. He forecast consumption in the major cotton buying nations would increase about 10 percent.

From Times Picayune, New Orleans, April 7 -

OILSEED MEETING AT BILOX-Members of the Valley Oilseed Processor Association with headquarters in Memphis Tenn., were arriving here Sunday from Arkansas, Missouri, Tennessee and Illinois for their 13th annual convention, opening Monday. Featured speakers scheduled were Joe Flaig, Dallas, Tex., T. H. Gregory, executive vice president of the National Cottonseed Products Association, and E. A. Gastrock, head of the engineering and development division, Southern regional research laboratory, New Orleans.

Topic of discussion among members, who engage principally in the crushing of cottonseeds, soybeans, other oilseeds, was about adequate supplies of raw material.

The critical scarcity of fats and the present excellent demand for high protein feeds was pointed to why farmers can expand production of oilseed crops in 1947.

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From Pioneer Press, St. Paul, Minn., April 4 -

WAR ON CATTLE DISSASE YEAR BEHIND SCHEDULE-Minnesota's diseased cattle cleanup program is lagging a year behind schedule due to a shortage of veterinarians and partly as a result, the incidence of undulant fever among Minnesota people is rising steadily, it was revealed Thursday.

The facts from official sources came out as a new drive was launched for enactment at this session of legislation to establish a veterinary college in Minnesota so that the shortage of veterinarians now holding up public health and disease eradication work can be broken.

Minnesota farm families and packing house workers coming directly in contact with dairy herds or handling meat from butchered animals are the most frequent victims of undulant fever, or Bang's disease, of which 2,933 cases have been diagnosed thus far among humans in Minnesota, figures from the state Department of Health disclosed.

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From Topeka Capital, April 2 -

KANSAS FARMS GROW MORE CERTIFIED SEED-Manhattan-For every Kansas farmer producing certified seed a decade ago, 10 are producing it today, according to L. L. Compton, secretary of the Kansas Crop Improvement Association at Kansas State College. Still the demand exceeds the supply.

More than 2,800 farmers in every Kansas county in 1946 produced 91,594 acres of certified seed. In 1936, 230 farmers produced 10,000 acres. The producers were able to catch up with the demand for wheat, oats and hybrid corn, Compton said. But in most cases they were unable last year to meet the demands for the new wilt resistant buffalo alfalfa, midrid yellow sweet clover, flax and chess free brome grass.

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DAILY FARM NEWS DIGEST
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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Office of Information
Washington 25, D.C.

(The newspapers and magazines from which these agricultural items are taken are on file in Press Service, Room 414A. Phone Gene Harrison at 6031.)

From New York Times, April 15 -

MACLEISH RESIGNS FROM UNESCO; SUCCEEDED ON BOARD BY MILTON EISENHOWER-Paris-Archibald MacLeish resigned today as a member of the executive council of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. Milton Eisenhower, head of the UNESCO national commission in the United States and president of the Kansas State College, was unanimously elected to succeed him at the closed session this morning.

From Wall Street Journal, April 15 -

BETTER FERTILIZER PROMISES HIGHER CROP YIELDS, LOWER LABOR COSTS-Spotlighted currently is a "delayed action" plant food. It is so described because it feeds crops at a uniform rate over a long period after application. A nitrogen product, it was developed by Agriculture Department scientists.

Known as "uraform," it is made from a combination of urea and formaldehyde. Because of the scarcity of these ingredients, the product has been produced only on a laboratory scale so far.

From N.Y. Journal of Commerce, April 15 -

ACCELERATED RESEARCH MAY ALTER ECONOMY-Acceleration of industrial research throughout the United States, as underlined by an almost ten fold increase in the number of laboratories since 1920, is certain to have a great impact on the nation's economy.

Never have there been more facilities and so much financial support for scientific workers.

The 1920 edition of the National Research Council's dictionary listed only 297 companies which maintained industrial research facilities.

Today 26 years later, there are 2,443 such industrial research laboratories, almost a thousand per cent growth.

COTTON PRICES SAG AS MILLS HESITATE-Pessimism in Worth Street and among speculators depressed cotton futures almost \$2.50 a bale before prices recovered partially by closing in a moderately active session on the New York Cotton Exchange yesterday. Weakness was most evident in the new crop months, and final prices were off 22 to 38 points but the closing tone was steady.

From Boise (Idaho) Statesman, Mar. 31 -

EARLY SPRING BOOSTS FARM LABOR NEEDS; EMPLOYMENT SERVICE REPORTS SKIPS OVER IDLE CLUB WORKERS - An agricultural season 20 days ahead of last year has stimulated job openings in Idaho, the State Employment Service reported Sunday.

A survey of local employment offices on March 22 showed 1,565 jobs available -- an increase of 108 over the previous week. The University of Idaho agricultural extension service county agents reported a 25 per cent net increase in farm employment opportunities in southwestern, south central and eastern Idaho.

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From Chicago Journal of Commerce, Apr. 1 -

GOODBYE, OLD PAINT - The old gray mare she ain't what she used to be. She did good work in her day, but now that day is drawing to a close. Machines have taken over on American farms, and scientific techniques, formerly practiced only experimentally by a select few, are now in general use.

Manufacturers of farm equipment envision 1947 as their biggest year, and they are preparing to meet an overwhelming demand.

Scientific practices, as well as machinery, have contributed to farm output. Hybrid seed has brought increased yields and sturdier plants. Artificial breeding has improved herds inexpensively. Soils are commonly tested to determine their ability to raise various crops and strains of seed.

As a result of these new techniques, American farmers produced more milk, raised more chickens, hogs, cattle and sheep, and harvested more corn, oats, wheat, cotton, tobacco, potatoes and soybeans in 1945 than they did in 1940. The value of farm output more than doubled -- from \$7,813,644,000 to \$18,108,132,000.

In 1940, the average-sized farm was 174 acres; now it is 194.8.

But this doesn't mean that the big fish are swallowing the little ones. More farms are now operated by owners, and fewer by tenants. Erstwhile tenants have presumably become science-conscious, made themselves some money, and bought their own farms.

Competition in farming is now so keen that one must increase efficiency in order to survive. Horses and men still do some jobs best, but we are seeing a rapid mechanization of farms. As techniques improve, the horses can gradually be turned out to pasture for a well-earned rest. So--so long, Dobbin! Goodbye, Old Paint!

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From Norfolk Virginian-Pilot, Apr. 4 -

AGRICULTURE-INDUSTRY BALANCE ADVOCATED - Whether Virginia should maintain its present almost 50-50 balance between agriculture and industry, and other related problems were discussed yesterday at a conference on industry and education sponsored by the Virginia State Chamber of Commerce at the Monticello Hotel.

Verbon E. Kemp, executive secretary of the organization, said his personal opinion was that a balance should be maintained but pointed out that did not mean a cessation of effort to build attractive industry.

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DAILY FARM NEWS DIGEST
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COTTON PRICES SAG AS MILLS HESITATE-Pessimism in Worth Street and among speculators depressed cotton futures almost \$2.50 a bale before prices recovered partially by closing in a moderately active session on the New York Cotton Exchange yesterday. Weakness was most evident in the new crop months, and final prices were off 22 to 36 points but the closing tone was steady.

From Boise (Idaho) Statesman, Mar. 31 -

EARLY SPRING BOOSTS FARM LABOR NEEDS; EMPLOYMENT SERVICE REPORTS SKIPS OVER IDLE CLUB WORKERS - An agricultural season 20 days ahead of last year has stimulated job openings in Idaho, the State Employment Service reported Sunday. A survey of local employment offices on March 22 showed 1,565 jobs available -- an increase of 103 over the previous week. The University of Idaho agricultural extension service county agents reported a 25 per cent net increase in farm employment opportunities in southwestern, south central and eastern Idaho.

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From Chicago Journal of Commerce, Apr. 1 -

GOODBYE, OLD PAINT - The old gray mare she ain't what she used to be. She did good work in her day, but now that day is drawing to a close. Machines have taken over on American farms, and scientific techniques, formerly practiced only experimentally by a select few, are now in general use.

Manufactures of farm equipment envision 1947 as their biggest year, and they are preparing to meet an overwhelming demand.

Scientific practices, as well as machinery, have contributed to farm output. Hybrid seed has brought increased yields and sturdier plants. Artificial breeding has improved herds inexpensively. Soils are commonly tested to determine their ability to raise various crops and strains of seed.

As a result of these new techniques, American farmers produced more milk, raised more chickens, hogs, cattle and sheep, and harvested more corn, oats, wheat, cotton, tobacco, potatoes and soybeans in 1945 than they did in 1940. The value of farm output more than doubled -- from \$7,813,644,000 to \$18,108,132,000.

In 1940, the average-sized farm was 174 acres; now it is 194.8.

But this doesn't mean that the big fish are swallowing the little ones. More farms are now operated by owners, and fewer by tenants. Erstwhile tenants have presumably become science-conscious, made themselves some money, and bought their own farms.

Competition in farming is now so keen that one must increase efficiency in order to survive. Horses and men still do some jobs best, but we are seeing a rapid mechanization of farms. As techniques improve, the horses can gradually be turned out to pasture for a well-earned rest. So--so long, Dobbin! Goodbye, Old Paint!

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From Norfolk Virginian-Pilot, Apr. 4 -

AGRICULTURE-INDUSTRY BALANCE ADVOCATED - Whether Virginia should maintain its present almost 50-50 balance between agriculture and industry, and other related problems were discussed yesterday at a conference on industry and education sponsored by the Virginia State Chamber of Commerce at the Monticello Hotel.

Verbon E. Kemp, executive secretary of the organization, said his personal opinion was that a balance should be maintained but pointed out that did not mean a cessation of effort to build attractive industry.

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DAILY FARM NEWS DIGEST
(For April 16, 1947)U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Office of InformationU.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Office of Information
Washington 25, D.C.

APR 18 1947

(The newspapers and magazines from which these agricultural items are taken are on file in Press Service, Room 4141. Phone Gene Harrison at 6031.)

From Chicago Daily Tribune, April 16 -

HOGS DECLINE AGAIN, RALLY IN LATE TRADE-The market for hogs established a new 12 weeks' average low price at the stock yards yesterday, but strengthened near the close on reports that farmers in many parts of the country had curtailed shipments because of recent price cutting.

The average for the entire session was 40 cents lower at \$23.35 a hundred pounds, lowest since Jan. 25, and \$5.40 under the record high of late February.

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From New York Journal of Commerce, April 16 -

ALL GRAIN FUTURES REGISTER ADVANCES-After fluctuating indecisively during much of the session grain futures moved upward during late dealings at Chicago yesterday aided by a partial recovery in cash markets, reports of renewed CCC buying on corn and unfavorable weather for spring seeding operations.

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COTTON ADVANCES ON RAINS IN SOUTH-Cotton futures shot up more than \$1 a bale, recovering from a week of doldrums, in an active session on the New York Cotton Exchange yesterday.

The outlook for further tightening of supplies of cotton this season was brightened by the announcement of a private loan to the Central Bank of China to cover 230,000 bales of cotton registered for shipment before June 30.

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From Wall Street Journal, April 17 -

SPOT BUTTER MARKET OFF 1 CENT-Spot butter prices declined 1 cent a pound yesterday on the local Mercantile Exchange. Dealings were on a small scale with only 400 boxes of 60 pounds each changing hands at the lower levels and 1,000 boxes failing to find buyers.

AA butter was offered at 64, off 1 cent. A butter traded at 63½, off 1 cent.

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COPRA COCONUT OIL PRICES DECLINE-Sharp declines in prices for copra and coconut oil have been recorded recently, with reports in trade quarters revealing a slow consumer demand with large buyers on the sidelines awaiting still lower price levels. Copra is offered at \$234 per short ton, c.i.f., Pacific Coast ports, a decline of \$10 compared with levels which prevailed the first of this month.

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From Wilkes-Barre (Pa.) Times-Leader News, Apr. 4 -

PLANES TO SPRAY DDT IN AREA TO WIPE OUT THE GYPSY MOTH- In progress for the past 14 years, the battle to wipe out the destructive gypsy moth caterpillar in Pennsylvania, will be presumed locally on next week when airplanes will again be brought into play in the spraying of DDT over the forest regions.

Word from the gypsy moth headquarters on North River street today was to the effect that three planes are expected in here over the week-end for spraying purposes and, included in the area to be treated are sections of Jenkins, Bear Creek, Buck and Plains Townships.

A goal of 70,000 acres has been set up for treatment this year by the State and Federal bureaus of plant industry, Miles Horst, State Agriculture Secretary said.

Last year's total was 54,000 acres (one pound of DDT per acre), when as high as five planes were in operation at one time. In three years more than 60,000 acres have been treated with DDT.

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From Boston (Mass.) Christian Science Monitor, Apr. 4 -

BLUE-MOLD CHEESE PRODUCED BY SOUTH CAROLINA COLLEGE - The production of blue-mold cheese -- a substitute for Roquefort -- is about to be launched commercially, providing a new industry for the mountain counties of South Carolina and Georgia.

As far back as five years ago, the first blue-mold cheese was produced experimentally in the deep tunnel of Stumphouse Mountain near here.

The experiments continued. But shortages during the war were not conducive to commercial exploitation. Now the Clemson College Dairy department has formed a co-operative, bought Stumphouse Mountain, and the enterprise is ready to be launched.

Clemson College will manufacture the blue mold necessary in the production of the cheese.

The basic cheese is simple enough to make. Aging and curing have always been the problem. In the sandstone caves of France the process is inexpensive. Constant temperature and humidity are provided by nature. To provide them artificially would be very expensive. Over a century ago an effort was made to bore a tunnel through Stumphouse Mountain to provide a rail route from Charleston to the West. The dairy scientists at Clemson College conceived the idea of experimenting with blue mold cheese in the abandoned tunnel. Temperature in the deep tunnel was found to be fairly constant the year around.

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From Manchester (N. H.) Union, Apr. 5 -

N. H. TO JOIN VT. MAPLE RESEARCH; EXPECTED TO HELP SUPPORT PRESENT STUDIES AS PRODUCERS SUGGEST - The University of New Hampshire and the University of Vermont, it is expected, will begin working on a program of joint support of extensive research study in the maple sugar industry.

The unanimous recommendation by the N. H. Maple Producers' association says that New Hampshire should not duplicate the broad program underway in Vermont, the No. 1 maple state of the nation, but rather should cooperate in it and help support it.

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APR 22 1947

(The newspapers and magazines from which these agricultural items are taken are on file in Press Service, Room 414A. Phone Gene Harrison at 6031.)

From New York Times, Apr. 18 -

ANDERSON SAYS FARM AID COSTING MORE; RISE IN PRICES ADDS TO SUPPORT BURDEN - Richmond, Va. - Secretary of Agriculture Clinton P. Anderson said today that rising prices were increasing the Government's financial burden under the price-support program.

In a speech before the Virginia State Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Anderson said this was still another reason why it was "more important than ever to maintain a sound and stable national economy."

The Secretary explained that support prices were based on parity and that parity in turn was based on the farmer's cost of living. Hence, he said, when the cost of living goes up, so does parity, and eventually so do support prices.

"Right now the prices of most agricultural commodities are well above the price support program," he said. "But rising prices of the things farmers buy mean parity prices for farm products at a higher level and, therefore, farm price support at a higher level."

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N. Y. STATE OFFICIAL CALLS MILK PARLEY FOR MONDAY ON PREMIUM PRICES TO AVERT FARMER STRIKE - Albany - In an effort to avert a strike by dairy farmers supplying the New York City area, C. Chester Du Mond, State Commissioner of Agriculture, today invited producers and dealers to meet with him on Monday to consider the payment of "premium prices" on milk delivered to the metropolitan zone after May 1.

The contemplated premium prices are intended to offset a 44cent reduction in the producer price of fluid milk that would become effective for May and June in accordance with a recent announcement of the United States Department of Agriculture, which administers the New York Milk Marketing Order.

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BIG SUGAR SUPPLY IS STORED IN JAVA; 800,000 TONS AWAIT EXPORT - Singapore - Warehouses in Java may contain 800,000 tons of sugar, most of which will be exported to help relieve the world shortage, according to Dr. Pieter Honig, general economics adviser to the Netherlands Indies Government.

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BRITAIN TO REDUCE BUYING IN DOLLARS; DALTON DEFENDS TOBACCO TAX AS 'FIRST SHOT' IN CAMPAIGN - London - Defending his drastic increase in the tax on tobacco, Hugh Dalton, Chancellor of the Exchequer, told the House of Commons tonight that this budget measure was the "first shot in a campaign for the reduction of dollar expenditure."

Despite a heavy barrage of criticism from Labor as well as Conservative M.P.'s Mr. Dalton refused to yield on the tobacco tax.

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RISE IN CONSUMPTION OF MEAT IS FORECAST - Chicago - A Department of Agriculture official asserted today "it seems reasonable to expect" that considerably larger supplies of meats can be sold during 1947 "at prices which will be satisfactory to producers and packers." Addressing the convention of the National Independent Meat Packers Association, Preston Richards, Assistant Director of the Marketing Administration of the department, said that the per capita consumption of meat this year will be about 150 to 155 pounds.

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From Chicago Daily Tribune, Apr. 18 -

HOG MARKET LOWEST SINCE LATE JANUARY - Hog prices in Chicago yesterday slumped to the lowest level since Jan. 25. The market averaged 75 cents a hundred pounds lower at \$23.25. Top loads declined 50 cents at \$25, but this price was paid sparingly and similar grades finished at \$24.50 when most of the principal pork packers refused to pay more than \$24 for any grades or weights. Losses in some kinds were as much as \$1.

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From New York Journal of Commerce, April 18 -

TOBACCO TRADE URGED TO READJUST PRICES - Chicago (AP) - The National Association of Tobacco Distributors today urged the tobacco industry "to make all price readjustments that may contribute to lowering of the general price level and cost of living, while sustaining wage levels."

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SUGAR - Sugar distribution in the first two months of this year is 10,000 tons less than a year ago, although supplies are more plentiful now than they were then. Puerto Rico's production is estimated at 14 per cent above a year ago. . . . Demand for sugar continues slow.

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From Wall Street Journal, April 18 -

FARM PRICES, PACESETTERS IN HIGH COSTS, HAVE STARTED THE DOWNWARD SLIDE - B.A.E. forecasters privately predict a farm price tobeggan for the rest of '47. April's "seasonal decline" started it. Bumper winter and spring crops will give it new momentum. Exports won't expand.

They fear costly farm subsidies, tied to "parity," are now in sight. Only lower industrial prices can push farm "parity" down, avert much government spending on price support.

So worried G.O.P. budgeteers are joining the high price probbers. That's why Taft's economic committee, long dormant, will ask Ford and McCormick how they cut prices, other big industrialists why they haven't.

Despite the ballyhoo, Truman has received only a dozen or so price cutting reports. None is significant.

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INDEPENDENT GROCERS CAMPAIGNING AGAINST HIGH FOOD PRICES - Chicago - A campaign against high food prices is under way by the country's retail grocers.

From Vermong to Oklahoma, owners of independent groceries are marshaling forces to reduce prices. Their plan:

A series of round table discussions with retailers, wholesalers and manufacturers on greater efficiency and more favorable price structures.

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From Des Moines (Iowa) Register, Apr. 6 -

SEEKS TAX TO KEEP GRAIN A MAIN SOURCE OF RUBBER - Washington, D. C. - Hopes that the huge synthetic rubber and alcohol plants built during the war might provide a permanent industrial market for future farm surpluses have suffered a severe blow the last year.

As things look today, synthetic rubber made from grain alcohol isn't likely to regain its wartime position unless the country is forced into another war or petroleum reserves reach a dangerously low level.

In hopes of nursing the industry through the next few years, until it can be firmly established on a permanent footing, Representative Carl T. Curtis (Rep., Neb.) is urging congress to give it the necessary protection.

He has introduced a bill that would levy an excise tax on all manufactured rubber products except those using synthetic rubber made from grain alcohol.

The bill tentatively proposes a tax of seven cents a pound on the rubber used, but Representative Curtis says the levy should be fixed at whatever amount would represent the difference between the cost of natural rubber, synthetic rubber made from petroleum products and the cost of rubber made from grain alcohol.

His objective is to give agricultural rubber enough of an advantage to assure its use in great volume.

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From New Orleans Times-Picayune, Apr. 9 -

CATTLEMEN RAP MILK STRIKE ACTS; 'DAMAGE TO INDUSTRY' BY MINORITY IS CHARGED -- Lafayette, La. - Actions of labor leaders in the recent Louisiana milk strike were condemned in a resolution adopted Tuesday at the annual meeting of the Louisiana Jersey Cattle and Dairy Association. The loss of thousands of dollars to milk producers of Southwest Louisiana and the unfavorable publicity the state received as a result of the unwarranted strike was deplored.

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From Christian Science Monitor, Apr. 11 -

INDUSTRY SAYS FOOD SUBSIDIES RULE PRICES - Washington - The President's press conference on prices appears, momentarily at least, to have thrown more heat than light on the subject.

The President contends that the responsibility for reducing prices rests solely on business. But business comes right back and says that Government and labor share that responsibility.

Business points out it is not the price of manufactured goods which has soared to altitude records, but the price of agricultural products and raw materials.

The major pressure on the family budget has occurred in food, management insists, and points an accusing finger at the Government, which is committed under law to support the price of farm products.

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From Wilmington (Del.) News, Apr. 11 -

TOMORROW'S FORESTS - Editorial - The forests of the future, President Truman remarked in an Arbor Day statement, will be the trees we plant now. This nation, he added, must stop destructive cutting and unwise depletion of its forest wealth. He was right. The rapid and reckless deforestation of America is one of the less responsible chapters in the history of free enterprise.

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From Chicago (Ill.) Times, Apr. 10 -

FOOD BOYCOTT HELD UNWISE BY EXPERTS - Chicago medical experts and consumers' groups today scoffed at an Illinois congressman's suggestion that housewives stop buying high priced foods.

All foods are "high priced" now, they said, and it would be neither "nutritionally nor financially" wise to buy substitutes in most cases.

Rep. Noah Mason, a Republican, was the butt of their attack. Opposing requests for government action to curb the high cost of living, Rep. Mason declared in Washington:

"The housewife has the remedy in her own hands. The only way to reduce prices of scarce food items is not to buy them; buy substitutes for them."

There are few, if any, good substitutes for the major items in the average American diet, the Chicagoans pointed out.

Dr. James Wilson, secretary, American Medical Assn.'s council for food and nutrition, said:

"There's no practical substitute for milk. The only substitute for bread and rolls would be cake. Maybe the good Congressman would like to have Illinoisans eat cake instead of bread."

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From San Diego (Calif.) Union, Apr. 7 -

MORE FEDERAL MONKEY BUSINESS - Editorial - In a time when eggs are seasonably plentiful we hear predictions of dollar-a-dozen eggs from the Butter and Eggs Merchants Association. It is suggested that eggs at a dime apiece may be the result of a decree by the Agriculture Department increasing the price of powdered eggs from \$1.20 to \$1.26, effective May 1. The result of this decree is expected to be the diversion of vast quantities of eggs from the consumer market to the processors of dried eggs, with a shortage which will boost the price to retail buyers.

If there is one particular thing which should convince the American public of the disadvantages of governmental "management," it is the record of the government in dealing with eggs and poultry. Twice the government has been "stuck" with millions of dozens of eggs, purchased at high prices to "support" the market. Twice the poultrymen have been fooled by government orders to increase production and to kill off laying hens. But the "support" policy continues.

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From Shreveport (La.) Times, Apr. 7 -

PLENTY OF WOOL - Editorial - What many average Americans do not know is that certain high prices reflect, not shortages, but federal government coddling of farm producers.

An excellent example is found in wool. There is today a gigantic world surplus of wool, and the price of wool outside the United States is considerably lower than it is in the United States. The reason for the difference is that the federal government -- through action of congress -- buys domestic wool production at a price guaranteeing a large profit for producers.

The result is that the government has accumulated a huge supply of wool, while American mills have been importing sizable quantities of foreign wool because of the lower price. Now, because of the government-held surplus, congress is being asked to allow the Commodity Credit Corporation to sell its wool at prices competing with foreign wool -- the American taxpayer being called upon to foot the bill for this costly piece of governmental folly.

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(The newspapers and magazines from which these agricultural items are taken are on file in Press Service, Room 414A. Phone Gene Harrison at 6031.)

From New York Times, April 8 -

COTTON PRICES END ABOVE DAY'S LOWS-After a poor start, the cotton futures market on the New York Cotton Exchange yesterday recovered from the lowest levels of the day but closed 13 to 31 points net lower than on last Thursday.

There was talk of improvement in the weather in the Cotton Belt and also reiteration of reports that the spot demand in the South is slow.

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SHARP RISE MARKS LATE GRAIN DEALS-Chicago-Grains turned upward sharply today in the late trading on the Board of Trade, after an early break.

Closing sales were about the top, with wheat showing gains of $\frac{1}{2}$ to $4 \frac{3}{4}$ cents a bushel, May leading.

Mills were moderate buyers at times, regarded as against sales of flour to the Government. Numerous stop loss orders were uncovered on the way up. Brokers reported that small orders had considerable effect either way in May, but that the new crop months were not influenced so easily.

Part of the buying of May wheat was attributed to reports that the Government might step up its export program by 50,000,000 bushels to furnish additional relief for Europe. It was figured that if this were done, the carryover at the end of the current crop year would be the smallest in recent years.

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From Wall Street Journal, April 8 -

COSTLY COCOA has candy bar manufacturers in a hot seat-The cocoa bean was worth nine cents a pound only last October. Today it costs 30 cents a pound, up 233% in half a year. And cocoa beans are chocolate in the raw.

The worst is ahead. The 30 cent cocoa hasn't yet reached the candy bar. Average value of manufacturers' cocoa inventories is around 20 to 22 cents a pound. In the teeth of consumer resistance, chocolate products prices may be forced even higher as the more expensive beans are used.

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WHEAT EXPORTS from the 1947 crop won't be allowed to leave our bins bare-The barrel bottom scraping that kicked wheat up to \$3 a bushel a few weeks ago stirred some thinking in the Agriculture Department. And Secretary Anderson's advisers are urging him to announce soon that wheat exports during the coming season will be regulated to leave adequate supplies here.

Anderson is expected to follow the advice of his henchmen and announce an "export range" of from 200 to 300 million bushels of wheat (and flour equivalent) for the crop season starting at mid year--rather than a fixed export goal.

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From Wall Street Journal, April 8 -

MIDWEST DAIRYMEN WORRY OVER AMERICA'S LOST BUTTER APPETITE—During the war, butter was sidetracked for cheese. The cheese poured overseas in a torrent to feed soldiers and Allied civilians. Butter churns were neglected.

And Americans sort of slipped into the habit of getting along with less butter. They haven't yet dropped the habit. In 1940 the per capita butter eating was 17 pounds. The yearly rate is now down to 10 pounds. And dairymen would like to see it go to 20.

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SENATE PASSES BILL CONTINUING HIGH WOOL PRICE TO U.S. GROWERS—Washington—The Senate yesterday passed legislation guaranteeing continued high prices to domestic wool growers.

The bill, which now goes to the House of Representatives, requires the Commodity Credit Corp. to lend or pay wool producers during 1947 and 1948 at least the price it paid in 1946, which was about 41.6 cents per pound.

The Senate bill has even more widespread ramifications. In order to discourage imports, principally from the British Empire, and to enable the CCC to dispose of some 380 million pounds of wool purchased thus far, it authorizes this agency to sell wool at prices competitive with foreign fibers.

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CATTLE AND HOGS were fully steady in a fairly active livestock market, but quality on slaughter lamb offerings was lowed to bring bids as much as 50 cents less. Hogs topped at \$27.50 with most good and choice butchers ranging downward from that figure to \$25.00. Comparable quality sows brought \$22.50 to \$23.25. A load of choice to prime steers featured the cattle trade with a sales tag of \$29.75, the highest price since March 5.

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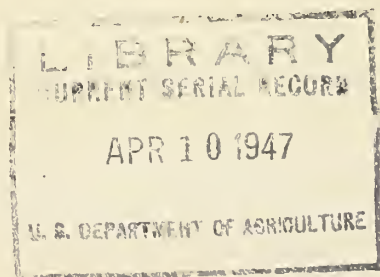
From N.Y. Journal of Commerce, April 8 -

POTASH OUTPUT TOTALS 923,127 TONS—Five leading American potash producers made a new high record when they delivered 923,127 tons during 1946, the American Potash Institute announced yesterday.

The figure was 54,941 tons or 6.3 percent greater than 1945 and continued for the twelfth year the unbroken record of increased deliveries, Institute officials declared. The total was in the form of 1,657,603 tons of potash salts.

Deliveries of agricultural purposes in the continental United States were 763,590 tons, an increase of 68,514 tons over 1945.

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Farm Digest 715-47-2

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DAILY FARM NEWS DIGEST
(For April 10, 1947)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Office of Information
Washington 25, D.C.

(The newspapers and magazines from which these agricultural items are taken are on file in Press Service, Room 414. Phone Gene Harrison at 6013.)

From New York Times, April 10 -

GRAIN PRICES RISE AFTER SLOW START-Chicago-Grain markets closed strong on the Board of Trade today, the reverse of yesterday. Although the markets were slow to respond to an announcement that a special Cabinet meeting held in Washington had taken no action in regard to the price situation, commission houses gradually absorbed the offerings and late in the day short covering got under way when May wheat started to act tight, and closing trades were about at the top.

Buying of May wheat by a cash interest with Southwestern connections were accompanied by reports that fairly liberal sales of flour had been made to the Government, and the upturn was helped by an advance of 2 cents in cash wheat premiums at Kansas City and Minneapolis.

Spring wheat seeding is making a slow start. A little field work has been done in eastern South Dakota but none elsewhere, according to reports. A Department of Agriculture estimate on the winter wheat crop will be issued after the close tomorrow.

COTTON ADVANCES BY 28 TO 42 POINTS-With trading moderately active, the cotton futures market on the New York Cotton Exchange closed 28 to 42 points net higher yesterday, slightly off from the best levels of the day.

Opening unchanged to 11 points lower, prices gained strength as the session progressed. The early selling was a sequel to the easier gray goods market and some outside liquidation based on uncertainty regarding the President's Cabinet meeting on the price situation.

From N.Y. Journal of Commerce, April 10 -

PRESIDENT AIDS FIRE PREVENTION-President Truman, leading the great influence to the cause of fire prevention, has called a conference in Washington May 6-8 to consider means for checking the tremendous and growing loss of life and property by fire. It is anticipated that some 3,000 State and municipal authorities, fire department officials, Army and Navy officers charged with supervision of fire prevention activities during the war, fire prevention experts and others will attend.

WORLD CAN USE ALL OUR EXPORT COTTON-Dallas-Foreign markets will purchase every bale of American cotton which can be made available for export next year, but on a long-run basis the volume of this country's cotton exports is dependent principally on price and foreign purchasing power, Read Dunn, Jr., foreign trade director of the National Cotton Council, told the Texas Cotton Ginners Association here today. Mr. Dunn estimated the total American type cotton available for export from all countries outside the U.S. during the next year at about 4,750,000 bales. He forecast consumption in the major cotton buying nations would increase about 10 percent.

From Times Picayune, New Orleans, April 7 -

OILSEED MEETING AT BILOXI-Members of the Valley Oilseed Processor Association with headquarters in Memphis Tenn., were arriving here Sunday from Arkansas, Missouri, Tennessee and Illinois for their 13th annual convention, opening Monday. Featured speakers scheduled were Joe Flaig, Dallas, Tex., T. H. Gregory, executive vice president of the National Cottonseed Products Association, and E. A. Gastrock, head of the engineering and development division, Southern regional research laboratory, New Orleans.

Topic of discussion among members, who engage principally in the crushing of cottonseeds, soybeans, other oilseeds, was about adequate supplies of raw material.

The critical scarcity of fats and the present excellent demand for high protein feeds was pointed to why farmers can expand production of oilseed crops in 1947.

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From Pioneer Press, St. Paul, Minn., April 4 -

WAR ON CATTLE DISSASE YEAR BEHIND SCHEDULE-Minnesota's diseased cattle cleanup program is lagging a year behind schedule due to a shortage of veterinarians and partly as a result, the incidence of undulant fever among Minnesota people is rising steadily, it was revealed Thursday.

The facts from official sources came out as a new drive was launched for enactment at this session of legislation to establish a veterinary college in Minnesota so that the shortage of veterinarians now holding up public health and disease eradication work can be broken.

Minnesota farm families and packing house workers coming directly in contact with dairy herds or handling meat from butchered animals are the most frequent victims of undulant fever, or Bang's disease, of which 2,933 cases have been diagnosed thus far among humans in Minnesota, figures from the state Department of Health disclosed.

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From Topeka Capital, April 2 -

KANSAS FARMS GROW MORE CERTIFIED SEED-Manhattan-For every Kansas farmer producing certified seed a decade ago, 10 are producing it today, according to L. L. Compton, secretary of the Kansas Crop Improvement Association at Kansas State College. Still the demand exceeds the supply.

More than 2,800 farmers in every Kansas county in 1946 produced 91,594 acres of certified seed. In 1936, 230 farmers produced 10,000 acres. The producers were able to catch up with the demand for wheat, oats and hybrid corn, Compton said. But in most cases they were unable last year to meet the demands for the new wilt resistant buffalo alfalfa, midrid yellow sweet clover, flax and chess free brome grass.

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(The newspapers and magazines from which these agricultural items are taken are on file in Press Service, Room 414A. Phone Gene Harrison at 6031)

From New York Times, April 3 -

MOSQUITO CONTROL CALLED WORLD BOON-Atlantic City-International cooperation in the control of mosquitos and other dangerous or bothersome insects, a movement spurred by the war, was described today as a boon to international understanding as well as health.

Dr. F. C. Bishop of the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine at Washington, who spoke at the opening of the thirty fourth annual meeting of the New Jersey Mosquito Extermination Association, said:

"Much new and valuable information on the mosquitos of the world—their identity and their habits, their potentialities for disease transmission and how to combat them—has appeared in all quarters of the globe."

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FIRM PRICES FOR FOOD SEEN TILL LATE IN '47-Washington-Consumers can expect food prices to hold near present levels during the next few months, largely because of their own lusty demands, the Agriculture Department said today.

Prices also will continue to get some support, the agency said, from export buying and market speculation in some commodities, particularly grains.

With industrial production at a peacetime record level, consumers as a group have sufficient buying power, officials said, to purchase quality food at rates considerably above prewar levels.

Nevertheless, the department expects food prices to decline during the latter part of the year. It has said farm prices may drop as much as 20 percent if its forecast of a business recession late this year is borne out.

The department said it is possible that wheat, which advanced sharply during March and then receded, may go up again before the new harvest but not to the March peak.

It said meat and livestock prices in general are likely to continue high through the spring and early summer, with slight declines for better quality beef and lamb a possibility.

Milk and dairy products are expected to drop to lower levels by June, while eggs are expected to continue near present levels during the next few months.

The department forecast a downturn in the present exceptionally high prices of food fats and oils by late summer.

Somewhat lower priced cotton was foreseen but slightly higher fruit prices were forecast for the spring.

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FARM SAFETY WEEK SET-Washington-President Truman, in designating the week beginning July 20 as National Farm Safety Week, called attention today to the additional accident hazards caused by the complexity of modern farm machinery. "I request all persons and organizations concerned with agriculture and farm life to cooperate in the observance of this fourth annual National Farm Safety Week," the President said, adding: "I also urge farm people everywhere to set aside a specific time during National Farm Safety Week for family discussions of methods for the prevention of accidents, in order that these producers of the nation's food may live and work with greater safety."

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From New York Times, April 3 -

TUNG OIL YIELD SOARS IN GULF COAST AREAS-Tung oil, or China wood oil, unsurpassed as a fast drying and water proofing ingredient for paints, is streaming in new record volume from pressing mills near tung groves in the Gulf Coast States.

The domestic harvest, less than one ton in 1924, climbed to 6,200 tons in 1943 and 47,300 tons in 1946, of which about 7,000 tons of oil could be extracted. That is about one tenth of imports from China in some prewar years, and an estimated one thirtieth of the amount the American paint industry could use in 1947.

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From N.Y. Journal of Commerce, April 3 -

LUMBER OUTPUT SEEN REVIVING OLD STANDARDS-The first signs of stabilization of the lumber markets are now visible in the main Southern and Western producing areas, giving promise of at least a partial realignment of grading policies to prewar competitive standards this year.

Reflecting a sharpening of competition among lumber producers, the dominant manifestation of this trend toward prewar standards is revealed in a greater willingness among sellers to "do a little more to please the customer."

It has meant, so far, that buyers in many cases can secure the exact sizes and dimensions of lumber they need instead of being forced to accept "random lots," and that buyers, in a smaller number of cases, can purchase more uniformly graded supplies.

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WOOL GROWERS URGE ADOPTION OF LONG RANGE LEGISLATION-Unless some high Government official interceded quickly, the United States will be faced with a dying wool growing industry at a time of increasing international uncertainty trade sources declared yesterday.

The amended Robertson wool bill which has been sent by the Senate Agricultural Committee to the Senate, in effect, raises the support price to wool growers by 2¢ a grease pound but takes no action to secure for the wool growing industry a permanent long range program which it is believed, alone can offer sufficient inducement to sheep raisers to begin increasing the number of livestock.

There is a possibility wool sources stated, that some sort of quota legislation will be passed which would grant the grower additional protection from foreign imports, something which compares to the British Joint-Organization program.

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From Wall Street Journal, April 3 -

WORRIED WOOL MEN-Boston-The spectre of Government wool monopoly is sending shudders up and down Summer Street.

(The Wall Street Journal begins a long front page article on the situation of the Boston fleece dealers in this vein.) In an editorial "What Price Wool?" the concluding paragraph reads: "If Congress were to give American sheep owners a two-year guaranty of 90 percent of parity it would be doing for them only what it has done for the majority of farmers under a sufficiently dubious policy of interfering with a normal economy. How it can fairly be asked to do far more for the wool-raising industry at the taxpayer's expense passes our comprehension."

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From Lexington (Ky.) Herald Leader, Mar. 20 -

COTTON'S COMEBACK - A poll of planters conducted by the Department of Agriculture reveals that 99 per cent of those questioned believe that cotton growing may boom again.

Last Year's crop was picked from 17.6 million acres compared with 24 million acres in prewar years.

Of the farmers questioned in the poll 68 per cent expressed the view that the labor shortage was mainly responsible for the smaller acreage planted to cotton during the last few years.

Twenty-three per cent credited the shift to other crops, but most of them believed that big cotton crops are on the way back.

Even the young farmers can recall the huge surpluses of cotton built up on the prewar 24-million-acre plantings and the difficulties the producers and the government met with in disposing of them.

A combination of war-created demand and smaller crops finally cleaned up those surpluses.

Perhaps the farmers had better think twice or three times before going back to those huge cotton crops which produced more lint than the market could absorb.

The rapid industrialization of the South is creating a growing demand for food crops and livestock which may prove to be more profitable than surplus cotton production.

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From Cincinnati Times-Star, Apr. 19 -

\$3 WHEAT - Rarely in the 99-year history of futures trading on the Chicago Board of Trade has the price of wheat reached \$3. Highest was in 1917, when the top price was \$3.25. Tuesday the price of March wheat briefly topped \$3, after having risen 80 cents a bushel since February 1. The rise, also reflected in retail wheat prices, comes home to the housewife in the one-cent increase in the price of a loaf of bread.

Immediate reason for the swift rise in wheat futures was the corner in which the short-contract brokers were being caught. But the rise in the price of cash wheat is not due to a rigged market, but to the terrific increase in foreign demand. Last August the United States set an objective of 267,000,000 bushels for export by July, 1947. That goal was later raised to 350,000,000 bushels. This country has to make good, as far as it can, the war-created shortages in many lands abroad.

We used to be the third largest wheat producer, ranking behind Russia and China. After the late war had done with Russia we led the procession. We must now carry a gigantic burden, which the box-car shortage has worsened. The problem would be far worse, and more Europeans and Asiatics would be starving today, were it not for the fact that our last year's crop was an all-time high and this year's crop promises to be even greater.

Farmers with long memories are thinking back to the bust that followed the World War I boom. During May, 1920, the Kansas City cash price averaged \$2.93 a bushel. Five months later it had dropped 50 cents and 12 months later to \$1.33. In December, 1932, the average was 42 cents a bushel, which meant around 30 cents at the farm.

No such bust is expected now or in the near future, if ever. The demand for wheat is bound to continue high for some time to come. But the increase in wheat prices is a vivid testimonial to the job which the United States is now doing to help feed the world.

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From Atlanta (Ga.) Constitution, Mar. 31 -

WE CAN'T STAND THIS LOSS. - For 200 years now America's natural resources have made ours the richest land in the world. They have enabled our people to build the highest standard of living known in history. In two world wars it was America that supplied the materials for victory over the aggressors. So abundant were our natural resources that our people, thinking they were inexhaustible, used them wastefully.

The day of reckoning is arriving. One has only to drive down any highway in Georgia to see the results of this waste and extravagance. While farmers plow unconcernedly in nearby fields, forest fires are eating up thousands of dollars worth of timber — timber that is sorely needed now for new homes. And those fires are killing millions of young trees which would have gone into the homes of our children and grandchildren. Everywhere the results of this neglect are visible. Even where fires have not consumed the trees they lie brown and crisp — dead from heat of the flames underneath when they should be green and growing for our future needs.

The State Forestry Department estimated that in the four months ending March 1, forest fires destroyed timber worth \$4,000,000. Hundreds of thousands of dollars more have been lost since the report was issued. Eighty-five percent of the losses were preventable and 40 percent were caused by deliberate burning of the woods.

The time was when the loss of \$4,000,000 worth of timber was no cause for alarm, for there were hundreds of millions worth more. Today the story is different. We are using timber faster than it is being grown and the prospects for our lumber supply in the future are growing dim. Everytime a landowner puts a match to the woods he is depriving some member of the coming generation of a home. And he is perhaps depriving the country of a vital material which would enable it to survive in a future war.

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From Watertown (N.Y.) Daily Times, Mar. 31 -

SYRUP CROP IS STILL DOUBTFUL - The maple syrup crop of northern New York will either establish a new record or will wind up a complete lure this spring, depending on the type of weather to be experienced here within the next three days, according to Levi L. Hunt of the Gouverneur Maple Syrup Producers Cooperative. The producers need warm weather badly, accompanied with a bountiful humidity. The number of trees tapped is about equal to that of last year. Prices have skyrocketed to as high as \$8 per gallon. Labor and fuel are scarce.

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From New Orleans Times-Picayune - Mar. 31 -

MILK COOP BLAMES STRIKERS - The Dairy Farmers' Cooperative Association of Kentwood repudiated the milk strike of union dairymen and denounced their resort to force an intimidation. President W. P. Wilson of the Cooperative Association said that union action in precipitating the strike had prevented a scheduled meeting of the association with the New Orleans milk producers scheduled last Tuesday.

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DAILY FARM NEWS DIGEST
(For April 4, 1947)

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(The newspapers and magazines from which these agricultural items are taken are on file in Press Service, Room 4144. Phone Gene Harrison at 6031)

From N.Y. Journal of Commerce, April 4 -

FIND WOOL GLUTS WORLD MARKETS-London-There is too much wool for glutted markets to absorb in a world in which millions need clothing, an international wool study group decided at the conclusion of a conference here today. The wool surplus, a statement by the group said, still presents a formidable problem.

Last June governments and wool dealers were holding about 5,000,000,000 pounds of wool. The study group estimated that by next June these holdings would be reduced to 4,500,000,000 pounds--still too much to allow for orderly marketing without tight controls and international understandings.

American policies, it was agreed by the wool experts of 25 nations attending, may have a profound bearing on the world situation. The American Government, through the Commodity Credit Corp., holds more than 450,000,000 pounds of wool. Selling it at current prices, as advocated by some American agricultural leaders, could demoralize markets of other lands.

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SUPPORT PRICE RISE BOLSTERS EGG TRADE-Receipts 43,459 cases. Increase in May support price was having a bolstering effect upon sentiment and upon the market following Wednesday's declines.

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ARGENTINE MEAT SURPLUS EARMARKED FOR BRITAIN-London-Argentina's whole exportable surplus of meat will come to Great Britain for the next few months to ease the shortage resulting from livestock losses in this country during the winter, Food Minister John Strachey said today.

Strachey added, however, in a House of Commons statement, that despite "this most welcome and helpful gesture" the danger of a shortage remains, because of the large number of cattle lost in the floods and deep snow.

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HOUSE SETS HEARING ON FARM PROGRAM-Washington-The House Agriculture Committee will start hearings April 21 with the intention of providing a long range national farm program to replace wartime laws.

Chairman Hope (Rep. Kan.) announcing the plan, said Secretary of Agriculture Anderson will be the first witness, followed by the heads of the national farm organizations and others interest in farm problems.

The hearings, Mr. Hope said in a statement, will be the most comprehensive agricultural program discussions in many years.

Mr. Hope said it was not planned to introduce legislation this session based on the hearings but the material will be in hand on which the committee can recommend long range policies to be considered next session.

The wartime present farm price support program is due to expire Dec. 31, 1948.

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From N.Y. Journal of Commerce, April 4 -

HOG MARKET-Chicago hog prices were 25c to 75c higher yesterday, with a top of \$27 compared with \$26.50 the previous day. Salable receipts amounted to 4,000 head, while 3,000 went to packers on direct consignment.

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WHEAT DELEGATES HELD OPTIMISTIC-London-Two members of the American delegation to the International Wheat Conference plan a quick air trip to Washington for further consultation with the United States Government on the question of prices for export wheat, informed sources said tonight.

The International Wheat Conference, attended by delegates of 40 nations trying to devise methods of stabilizing world wheat prices and supplies, adjourned last night until April 14.

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PACKAGE DEMAND FOR SUGAR IMPROVES-Demand for refined sugar continued to expand yesterday as a larger volume of ration evidence came into circulation since the new stamp No. 11 was validated for 10 pounds on April 1. The concentrated buying was for package sugars. Thus far, the buying has not extended to offshore supplies.

Marketwise there were no new developments. Trade interests were beginning to discuss possible extension of the Sugar Act of 1937 which expires at the year end for another year in its present form. Also there was some talk about extension of export controls, which expire on June 30, to cover shipments of refined to European countries beyond that date.

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From New York Herald Tribune, April 4 -

ACTION ON SUGAR CALLED BLOW TO FOOD CANNERS-Termination of sugar controls by Congress as of Oct. 31 and its failure to provide sufficient sugar for proper processing of this year's crop of fruits and vegetables when it voted such action have presented the nation's food canners "with a first rate financial, marketing and labeling dilemma," M. L. Toulme, executive vice president of the National - American Wholesale Grocers' Association, declared yesterday.

Despite the warnings and pleas against such action, backed by the unanimous weight of opinion in the food industry, Congress voted early end of sugar controls, he said. In doing so, Mr. Toulme charged, Congress has "unnecessarily" faced all producers, users, processors and distributors of sugar "with grave speculative risks."

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From Wall Street Journal, April 4 -

CONSTRUCTION COSTS HAVE REACHED PEAK, 53% OF COUNTRY'S BUILDERS SAY -Some 53% of the country's general contractors believe that the peak in construction costs has been reached, according to a survey of 268 builders made by the F.W. Dodge Corp.

In some areas, particularly in New England, the South Atlantic states and the eastern part of the South Central states, opinion was preponderant, at least two to one, that costs would rise no higher. Opinion was general, in the Pacific states that the peak has not yet been reached.

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From Lt. Louis (Mo.) Post-Dispatch, Apr. 2 -

FARMERS AS A PRESSURE GROUP - Editorial - Wheat growers complain that it is not they, but the speculators, who benefit when wheat rises toward \$3. This is only partly true. The speculators and grain dealers get most of the profit in the rise in the price of last year's wheat, but the movement also affects the price of the crop to be harvested next summer.

We have made the point that the public whose taxes subsidize agriculture and guarantee farmers a fair price for crops in poor times should be protected from runaway inflation in farm prices. There is no such protection now and every time someone rises in Congress to propose that protection be provided, the farm lobby swats him down.

Judging from letters we have received, some farmers recognize that this is wrong. They see that it is unfair and they see also that high swings in farm prices cause overly large plantings of the high-priced commodity and bring a dangerous reaction.

But the number who see this is small. Until their number increases and they band together to counteract the influence of the more greedy farmers who call the signals for the farm lobby, there is no danger of speaking too harshly of farmers as a pressure group.

That applies not only to wheat and cotton farmers, who have prevented proper regulation of the futures market, but also to other groups such as wool growers, who through tariffs and subsidies reach into the consumers' pockets for a billion dollars a year.

Farmers are just as unprepossessing a pressure group as any other -- and far more powerful than most. Their greed can be counteracted only by the outcry of organized consumers, and such an outcry is overdue.

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From Chicago Daily Tribune, Apr. 3 -

PRICES OF CORN, WHEAT BREAK ONE DAY LIMIT; CAUSED BY WANING EXPORT DEMAND - Wheat futures broke 10 cents a bushel and corn 8 cents yesterday on the Chicago Board of Trade yesterday on selling attributed to waning export demand.

Selling was attributed mainly to reports that April and May export commitments for wheat flour and corn by the government are nearly filled and to the excellent outlook for the new winter wheat crop. Altho export sales of 720,000 bushels of corn were made to England and 180,000 bushels to Holland Tuesday and the government took 365,000 bushels, the business had no effect on prices.

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From New York Herald Tribune, Apr. 3 -

FARM PRICES HOLD; U. S. IS EATING WELL BUT AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT SEEKS 20% PRICE DROP - Washington - Keen American appetites for plenty of good food - and a willingness to pay for it -- are helping to hold farm prices at high levels.

The Agriculture Department so reported today, adding that this heavy domestic demand is getting considerable assistance from expectations that exports may be larger than foreseen and from "speculative buying" in the grain markets.

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From New York Herald Tribune, Apr. 3 -

SHIP SHORTAGE CUTS ARGENTINE MEAT AND WOOL; PATAGONIAN PACKING PLANTS FACE CLOSING; HALF OF SEASON'S SHEARING UNSOLD - Rio Gallegos, Argentina--Meat-packing plants dotting Patagonia's coast must curtail or cease operations, and half of the wool crop in this vast region of southern Argentina may go unsold unless shipping is provided immediately, officials here said today.

Wool buyers said that only half of Patagonia's 1946-47 crop (the shearing season is in December, January and February) has been purchased, because ships cannot be provided for transporting the crop to world markets. A prominent firm said the demand is great for Patagonian wool, but clients in the United States and England refuse to purchase it unless shipment can be guaranteed, and this is impossible.

The Argentine government holds a monopoly on the buying and selling of mutton and lamb and arranges shipping, but the government has not interfered in the rich wool market. Shippers receive from \$3.50 to \$4.25 a head for lambs and sheep delivered at the freezer. Wool brings 22 to 27 cents a pound delivered on the beach.

ARMY WILL TURN TO WOOL COVERT TO MEET NEEDS; LACK OF OFFERS OF SERGE FOR UNIFORMS FORCES STEP; TO SEEK THREE MILLION YARDS - The Army announced yesterday it was being compelled to seek woollen covert cloth for uniforms because it had been unable to obtain its requirements of the traditional wool serge despite every effort, including relaxation of its standards for uniform cloth. The Army Quartermaster Corps for months has been seeking to obtain bids on 10,700,000 yards of 18 ounce uniform serge, but even the lowering of standards failed to bring in sufficient amounts.

From Baltimore Sun, Apr. 3 -

FOOD INDUSTRY CUTS DOWN ON INVENTORIES - New York - There is a general disposition in the food industry to get inventories down because of the uncertainty of future price levels, Gordon C. Corbaley, president of the Institute of Food Distribution, said today.

Stating that there is no panicky atmosphere in cutting down stocks by retailers, wholesalers and processors, Corbaley added that the industry has leaned toward getting inventories in better shape since last December.

"There has been a feeling that some prices were too high and that over a period of time some would come down," he said. "Despite the bulge in cereal and some other commodity prices, the average of all retail food prices is easing downward fractionally month by month."

In Washington, the Department of Agriculture said farm prices should hold at "high levels during the next few months," but repeated its previous forecast they would turn downward during the second half of the year, possibly as much as twenty per cent. That prediction was said to be based largely upon expectation of a slight industrial recession later this year.

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From N.Y. Journal of Commerce, April 14 -

CORN PRICES SAG ON LARGE STOCKS-Most grain futures at Chicago were reactionary on Saturday with selling prompted by a reduction in export allocations for June and weakness in cash markets.

Corn again displayed independent weakness with the bearish statistical position for that grain, upon which renewed attention was focused by the farm stocks report Thursday afternoon, again inducing considerable selling.

Chicago wheat closed unchanged to 1 3/4 c lower with the old crop May contract losing ground to deferred positions, a reversal of the recent trend.

Thus, with some tapering off in export demands in prospect and domestic bakers confining purchases to minimum nearby requirements there was some tendency to look for partial easing in the tight cash wheat situation.

However, study of available wheat supply data failed to encourage expectations of any free flow of wheat during remainder of the old crop season.

PHILIPPINES HEMP LARGE, SAYS US-Washington-The State Department said today that there is enough manila hemp in the Philippines so that if it were fully utilized and efficiently stripped, the productive yield could be raised to 250,000,000 pounds this year.

The department reported that 1946 abaca output was a little under 110,000,000 pounds, all grades, less than one third of the 350,000,000 pound average annual prewar production.

URGE ADOPTION OF INSECTICIDE BILL-Washington-Congressional approval of the Andresen bill to regulate interstate shipments of insecticides, fungicides and weed killers was urged over the weekend by representatives of the trade and spokesmen for the Department of Agriculture.

The Andresen bill, HR 1237 now being considered by a subcommittee of the House Agriculture Committee, is designed to replace the present law regulating economic poisons, the Insecticide Act of 1910.

From New York Times, April 14 -

PRICES OF COTTON CONTINUE TO DROP-Prices of cotton continued to decline steadily last week. At the close of trading on Saturday active futures on the New York Cotton Exchange were 73 to 97 points under the final levels of the preceding week, when net losses of 41 to 82 points had been registered.

The market's weakness last week was attributed principally to diminished demand from mills, apparently affected by slackened business in the textile markets, and indications of buyer resistance of high prices of goods.

From St. Paul (Minn.) Pioneer Press, Mar. 28 -

GOOD MOVE BY THYE - The time for congressional action on the farm front is definitely here. Farm price troubles rapidly are coming to a head in this country. Wild fluctuations in agricultural markets signal that difficulties are ahead. . . .

A new move made by Senator Thye of Minnesota is the introduction of a resolution calling for establishment of a joint committee of the Senate and the House to develop the basic principles of permanent farm legislation in time for enactment next year. . . .

If Congress acts in time on basic farm legislation, postwar difficulties and hardships may be greatly eased for agriculture, consumers and business. But if it does not, the consequences for the country may be grave.

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From Watertown (N.Y.) Daily Times, Apr. 8 -

EVERY BOY HAS A CHANCE - The poor boy from the farm with native intelligence and alert resourcefulness who finally makes an international reputation cannot but be brought to mind as the career of Henry Ford is considered. It stands as a kind of symbol of the chance which belongs to every bright boy. It is characteristic of what brains, industry, determination can accomplish in America.

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From St. Paul (Minn.) Pioneer Press, Apr. 8 -

GRAIN CO-OPS PETITION ICC FOR BOXCARS - The Farmers Union Grain Terminal association and three other regional grain cooperatives with elevators in Minnesota, the Dakotas, Montana, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas joined Monday in petitioning the Interstate Commerce commission in Washington to provide more equitable distribution of box cars to country elevators.

The request was made for the cooperatives by Roy F. Hendrickson, Washington representative of the National Federation of Grain Cooperatives.

He said that ICC car order No. 244 provides "box cars on a one boxcar-to-each-elevator rotation, basis when elevators are filled, irrespective of the capacity of the elevator."

Hendrickson said the cooperatives wanted box cars allotted on a historic basis. Because of car shortages, farmers, in many instances have been unable to move grain through their own cooperatively owned elevators. Operations of the farmer-owned elevators "have been seriously handicapped in recent years and conspicuously during the 1946-47 season in the movement of wheat and other grains."

In addition to "modernizing car order No. 244" the cooperatives made two other recommendations: First --- Improve the turn-around time of box cars. Second --- More equitable regional distribution of box cars between eastern and western railroads.

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DAILY FARM NEWS DIGEST
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From New York Journal of Commerce, April 17 -

FARM SUPPORT HELD FOOD PRICE CURB; ANDERSON STATES SUBSIDIES ASSURED HIGH RATE OF PRODUCTION-Washington-Secretary of Agriculture Anderson was quoted by his office yesterday as believing that the Government's farm price support program has prevented higher food costs than now prevail because it encouraged high level of production.

In informal comments, given to newsmen by an aide, Anderson was quoted as adding:

"The Administration's whole effort since Pearl Harbor--Dec. 7, 1941--has been to hold food prices at a reasonable level.

"To this end, farmers were assured that prices of specified commodities would be supported for two years following the end of hostilities, but this assurance was specifically and in fact offset to the price control legislation as indicated by its inclusion in the Stabilization Act approved Oct. 2, 1942."

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U.S. ASKS U.K. CUT TARIFF ON TOBACCO-Geneva-Wintrop Brown, chairman of the U.S. Trade Agreement Committee, said today America has called upon Britain to reduce its tariffs on tobacco, among other important commodities.

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From New York Times, April 17 -

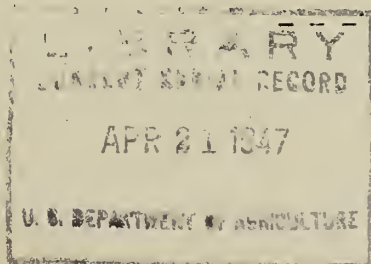
BRITAIN EXPECTED TO CUT HER FOOD IMPORTS AGAIN-London-All signs today pointed to cuts in Britain's food imports. This in turn may mean reductions in the meager food rations and the lowering of the British standard of living.

Hugh Dalton, Chancellor of the Exchequer, foreshadowed it in his budget speech yesterday when he said, "Our import program must be severely limited and much of this will be disagreeable." He also warned that huge subsidies of nearly \$300,000,000 to keep food prices down could not be continued indefinitely.

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From Wall Street Journal, April 17 -

AMERICAN SUGAR TO SHOW IMPROVED DELIVERIES IN 1947-Flemington-Meltings and deliveries of sugar by American Sugar Refining Co. this year will be much better than in 1946 because of increased allotments allowed by the Government, it was stated by Joseph F. Abbott, president.



Form Digest 775-47

From Lancaster (Pa.) Intelligencer Journal, Apr. 5 -

FEED SITUATION AIDS DAIRYMEN - "The improved outlook for dairy feed is encouraging to the dairyman," according to David F. Harnish, president of the Lancaster County Ayrshire Breeders Association, in reviewing the present-day trends.

"Better feed conditions should enable the dairyman not only to do his job better in 1947 than he did in 1946, but it should help him to raise his calves and heifers better so that in the future his tools will be still more efficient than they have in the past," Harnish added.

"We as dairymen must realize the better we care for our dairy herds, the better they will care for us."

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From Baltimore Sun, Apr. 13 -

SLASH IN FOOD PRICES URGED BY U. S. GROCERS; NATIONAL GROUP ASKS 70,000 MEMBERS TO WORK FOR 'REASONABLE LEVELS' - Chicago - The National Association of Retail Grocers advised President Truman today it had called on its nearly 70,000 members to work with suppliers to bring food prices down to "reasonable levels."

At the same time, the National Association of Retail Meat Dealers announced it "continuously" had been urging its members to hold meat prices to "lowest possible levels" and the American Meat Institute reported a record production of beef last month already has resulted in price reductions to "attractive levels."

The American Meat Institute said a check of wholesale meat prices showed an average decline of about ten percent from prices prevailing a month ago and about twenty per cent below the price peak reached after the removal of OPA price controls last October.

The Institute said various beef and pork cuts were now "good buys almost anywhere."

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From Boston (Mass.) Globe, Apr. 2 -

CALLING ALL GARDENERS! - Home gardens played a notable part in the intense struggle for production during the war years in America. They were responsible for a tremendous portion of the national food supply. Thus they helped to take an appreciable burden of consumer demand from the farms, enabling the latter to concentrate more singlemindedly upon the gigantic job of meeting war demands.

As things look at present, both from the standpoint of the government's relief programs in foreign lands and from the much more acutely realized facts of domestic food prices from the Atlantic seaboard to the Pacific Ocean, the foresighted householder will be wise if he plans as large a home garden as he can manage, comfortably, with the help and means at his disposal.

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EDITORIAL CROSS SECTION

From the Journal of Commerce, New York, Apr. 16 -

ARE FOOD PRICES COMING DOWN? - The Government has been blamed for pushing food prices up by its support operations. A good deal of this criticism is not justified. Actually, the great majority of farm products are far above these floor levels. Active price support operations have been carried out only in a few cases, the most important instance being potatoes.

The Government stepped up its overseas relief shipments from 275,000,000 to 400,000,000 bushels in March, when supplies on hand were near their seasonal low point. Had the purchases been made last fall when stocks on hand were much larger, the effect would have been far less spectacular.

The Department of Agriculture still expects farm prices to soften as new crops come to market. . . . The combination of large crops and some consumer resistance to high prices could bring about a material fall in the average level of food prices between now and the end of the year.

From Atlanta (Ga.) Constitution, Apr. 13 -

LET'S AVOID A 'BUST' - Let us assume a beneficent philanthropist were to announce that due to the high cost of food he was going to give to every man, woman and child in the country an even \$1,000.

It would not at all mean any more food for each man, woman and child.

There is only so much food.

The extra money would simply mean eggs would go to about \$5 per dozen and bread, meat and milk to levels as astronomical.

Food prices currently are high for the reason that we are helping peoples of starving countries, and, too, because the Spring crops have not yet begun to come in here and abroad. When they do prices will decline.

That is a great oversimplification of it, and by no means the whole story, but it is the basic story.

From Star-Telegram, Fort Worth, Tex., Apr. 1 -

FIRE ON THE FARM - It is economical to clean up. It saves dollars. Last year the loss by fire to American farmers was more than \$100,000,000. That would have paid for a lot of cleaning up. And then, there's the hospital bill for several thousands who burned by the flames. That amounts to other millions -- besides the pain suffered by the fire victims.

"Clean up -- don't burn up," is good advice.

From Kansas City Times, Apr. 9 -

GOING INTO PRICES - At some time, and it would be better soon, industry must be content with fair profits and labor with fair wages. Then with abundant production the price situation will be adjusted at more normal and less hurtful levels.

From the Herald, Lexington, Ky., Apr. 3 -

REAL HELP TO FARMERS - There has been intelligent statesmanship on the part of Kentucky members of Congress from both parties and all tobacco states. Representatives from tobacco states met with Secretary of Agriculture Anderson. They discussed foreign markets for tobacco.

For the first time, apparently, flue-cured and burley tobacco spokesmen are in agreement in regard to foreign markets. Flue-cured tobacco representatives now are realizing that when blended tobacco is used a pound of one is sold for every pound of the other variety. This may not apply to the market in England but will apply to markets developed in the rest of Europe.

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From the New York Times, Apr. 13 -

SAVING THE SOIL - A recent announcement from the Soil Conservation Service of the Department of Agriculture emphasizes two important points. First, efforts to save the nation's topsoil are making progress; second, we still have a considerable distance to go. The statistics of the past are sober reading. The Service estimates that between 1895 and 1930 a full million acres of topsoil were lost each year; that more than 50 percent of the country's farmlands have been damaged to some degree by wind or water erosion; that the cost has been about four billion dollars annually.

Since 1930 the rate of damage has been slowed to approximately half a million acres a year. . . . A significant victory for the conservationists came in 1935 when the Congress passed the Soil Conservation Act and the Soil Conservation Service was made a part of the Department of Agriculture. Since that date 1,650 Soil Conservation Districts have been organized. The districts are run by the participating farmers. Nearly four million of the approximately six million farms in the United States now belong to the districts. Through cooperative arrangements farmers can hire machines for terracing, draining and contouring. Soil Conservation Service experts and farmers plan strip-cropping, irrigation, cover cropping, gully planting and restoration of eroded fields.

The restoration of farmland is a world problem. Food is fundamental to a peaceful world. Efforts to save the soil must go forward to a successful conclusion.

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From Grand Junction (Colo.) Sentinel, Apr. 3 -

SUGAR SHORTAGE A CHALLENGE - Despite Americans' devotion to the old law of supply and demand, there is great satisfaction over congress' decision to continue price and distribution controls over sugar, so that each of us will have a fair chance at the apparently limited supply that will be available during the rest of this year. Under the new legislation, the sugar controls that would have expired Monday midnight have been extended until October 31.

The known scarcity of sugar the world around suggests there will be as great demand for sugar next year as there is today. This situation should challenge Western Slope sugar beet growers to expand their acreages.

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DAILY FARM NEWS DIGEST
(For April 11, 1947)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Office of Information
Washington 25, D.C.

(The newspapers and magazines from which these agricultural items are taken are on file in Press Service, Room 414A. Phone Gene Harrison at 6031.)

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SEE FLAXSEED CROP ABOVE EARLY AIMS-Washington-Government officials are now optimistically forecasting a domestic flaxseed crop this summer exceeding the 5,000,000 acre goal set by the Department of Agriculture last November.

Encouraged by the \$6 a bushel, U.S. No. 1, Minneapolis basis, support price set by USDA Jan. 10, and the feeling that a wide open market awaits the summer crop, farmers may yet increase plantings this spring, according to agriculture and commerce officials.

Charles E. Lund of the foods, fats and oils section of the Commerce Department believes that the market may settle at the \$6 Government floor price, while Gus Geissler, head of USDA's Federal Crop Insurance Corp., expressed the opinion that the market will stabilize at \$6.25 throughout the summer harvest.

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PHILIPPINE COPRA OUTPUT IN 1947 ESTIMATED AT 750,000 LONG TONS-Washington-The Philippine copra industry has made a remarkable recovery since the end of the war, and will produce 750,000 long tons this year.

This estimate, made public by the State Department, was contained in a report to the Department made by a former agricultural official attached to the American Embassy in Manila. The official, C. A. Boonstra, said exports of copra from the islands may be limited by a price rise in hemp or by a scarcity of foodstuffs. These developments would cause a diversion of labor away from copra production. Output in 1946 was 600,000 tons, it was stated.

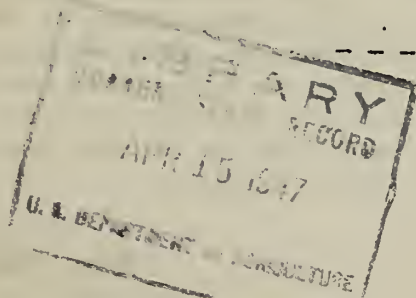
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DAIRYMEN WILL FIGHT 1 CENT CUT IN MILK-The projected 1 cent a quart cut in the farm price of milk on May 1 will be fought by the Dairymen's League Cooperative Association, it was announced yesterday.

Its membership of 27,000 will refuse to accept less than the current price of \$4.58 a hundred pounds, according to a statement from the office of Henry H. Rathbun, the league president.

Secretary of Agriculture Clinton P. Anderson announced a reduction of 44 cents a hundred pounds in the farm price of milk for this area in Washington on Wednesday.



Farm Digest 745-47

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FARM TECHNICAL PROBLEMS AIRED - State College, Miss. - Expansion of agricultural engineering and farm management activity in research, extension work and teaching was advocated by a group of Mississippi agricultural leaders who attended the farm technology and farm management conference at Mississippi State college Tuesday.

The group urged that the practical be stressed in every phase of the program, that farm management problems of research, such as profitable livestock and building units, be made practical.

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SENATE APPROVES EXTENSION OF CCC - Washington - The Senate gave unanimous approval on a voice vote today to a one-year extension of the Government's Commodity Credit Corp., until June 30, 1948.

The legislation now goes to the House.

This is the agency that has financed most of the crop loan and price-support farm programs in recent years. It has a borrowing authority of \$4,500,000,000.

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From Manchester, N. H., Union, Apr. 7 -

BETTER SPUDS FOR BIGGER TRADE - Better potatoes, to increase demand, and disposal of 25 percent of the crop for byproducts, were discussed at the annual supper meeting of potato growers and shippers at the Farm and Home Week of the University of Maine, at Orono recently. Better potatoes are needed to check a downward trend in per capita consumption and a possible distribution of competing products.

Possibility of continuing price supports after 1948 was also discussed. A chain store representative told the meeting that fresh vegetables provide the stores with the best present-day opportunity for improvement.

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LEAF LETTUCE TESTS ASKED; GROWERS WANT VARIETY FOR EACH SEASON - East Lansing - Michigan State college plant breeders have been requested to develop leaf lettuce varieties for each season of the year.

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PLAINS STATES LEAD NATION IN CATTLE, WHEAT - Topeka, Kans. - Down on the lower end of Main St., among the harness shops, farm machinery sales lots and the spicily fragrant seed stores, is one of the best places to learn about Kansas and the central northwest tier of wheat and cattle states.

Today the plains region leads the nation in beef cattle, and it produces more than half of the nation's wheat. The only European analogy to the American plains is found in the Russian steppes, and from the steppes came the seed that brought final settlement and prosperity to the plains.

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From Chicago Daily Tribune, April 16 -

HOGS DECLINE AGAIN, RALLY IN LATE TRADE-The market for hogs established a new 12 weeks' average low price at the stock yards yesterday, but strengthened near the close on reports that farmers in many parts of the country had curtailed shipments because of recent price cutting.

The average for the entire session was 40 cents lower at \$23.35 a hundred pounds, lowest since Jan. 25, and \$5.40 under the record high of late February.

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From New York Journal of Commerce, April 16 -

ALL GRAIN FUTURES REGISTER ADVANCES-After fluctuating indecisively during much of the session grain futures moved upward during late dealings at Chicago yesterday aided by a partial recovery in cash markets, reports of renewed CCC buying on corn and unfavorable weather for spring seeding operations.

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COTTON ADVANCES ON RAINS IN SOUTH-Cotton futures shot up more than \$1 a bale, recovering from a week of doldrums, in an active session on the New York Cotton Exchange yesterday.

The outlook for further tightening of supplies of cotton this season was brightened by the announcement of a private loan to the Central Bank of China to cover 230,000 bales of cotton registered for shipment before June 30.

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From Wall Street Journal, April 17 -

SPOT BUTTER MARKET OFF 1 CENT-Spot butter prices declined 1 cent a pound yesterday on the local Mercantile Exchange. Dealings were on a small scale with only 400 boxes of 60 pounds each changing hands at the lower levels and 1,000 boxes failing to find buyers.

AA butter was offered at 64, off 1 cent. A butter traded at 63½, off 1 cent.

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COPRA COCONUT OIL PRICES DECLINE-Sharp declines in prices for copra and coconut oil have been recorded recently, with reports in trade quarters revealing a slow consumer demand with large buyers on the sidelines awaiting still lower price levels. Copra is offered at \$234 per short ton, c.i.f., Pacific Coast ports, a decline of \$10 compared with levels which prevailed the first of this month.

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From Wilkes-Barre (Pa.) Times-Leader News, Apr. 4 -

PLANES TO SPRAY DDT IN AREA TO WIPE OUT THE GYPSY MOTH- In progress for the past 14 years, the battle to wipe out the destructive gypsy moth caterpillar in Pennsylvania, will be presumed locally on next week when airplanes will again be brought into play in the spraying of DDT over the forest regions.

Word from the gypsy moth headquarters on North River street today was to the effect that three planes are expected in here over the week-end for spraying purposes and, included in the area to be treated are sections of Jenkins, Bear Creek, Buck and Plains Townships.

A goal of 70,000 acres has been set up for treatment this year by the State and Federal bureaus of plant industry, Miles Horst, State Agriculture Secretary said.

Last year's total was 54,000 acres (one pound of DDT per acre), when as high as five planes were in operation at one time. In three years more than 60,000 acres have been treated with DDT.

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From Boston (Mass.) Christian Science Monitor, Apr. 4 -

BLUE-MOLD CHEESE PRODUCED BY SOUTH CAROLINA COLLEGE - The production of blue-mold cheese -- a substitute for Roquefort -- is about to be launched commercially, providing a new industry for the mountain counties of South Carolina and Georgia.

As far back as five years ago, the first blue-mold cheese was produced experimentally in the deep tunnel of Stumphouse Mountain near here.

The experiments continued. But shortages during the war were not conducive to commercial exploitation. Now the Clemson College Dairy department has formed a co-operative, bought Stumphouse Mountain, and the enterprise is ready to be launched.

Clemson College will manufacture the blue mold necessary in the production of the cheese.

The basic cheese is simple enough to make. Aging and curing have always been the problem. In the sandstone caves of France the process is inexpensive. Constant temperature and humidity are provided by nature. To provide them artificially would be very expensive. Over a century ago an effort was made to bore a tunnel through Stumphouse Mountain to provide a rail route from Charleston to the West. The dairy scientists at Clemson College conceived the idea of experimenting with blue mold cheese in the abandoned tunnel. Temperature in the deep tunnel was found to be fairly constant the year around.

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From Manchester (N. H.) Union, Apr. 5 -

N. H. TO JOIN VT. MAPLE RESEARCH; EXPECTED TO HELP SUPPORT PRESENT STUDIES AS PRODUCERS SUGGEST - The University of New Hampshire and the University of Vermont, it is expected, will begin working on a program of joint support of extensive research study in the maple sugar industry.

The unanimous recommendation by the N. H. Maple Producers' association says that New Hampshire should not duplicate the broad program underway in Vermont, the No. 1 maple state of the nation, but rather should cooperate in it and help support it.

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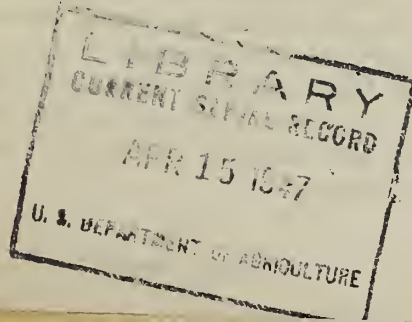
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From New York Times, April 8 -

COTTON PRICES END ABOVE DAY'S LOWS-After a poor start, the cotton futures market on the New York Cotton Exchange yesterday recovered from the lowest levels of the day but closed 13 to 31 points net lower than on last Thursday.

There was talk of improvement in the weather in the Cotton Belt and also reiteration of reports that the spot demand in the South is slow.

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SHARP RISE MARKS LATE GRAIN DEALS-Chicago-Grains turned upward sharply today in the late trading on the Board of Trade, after an early break.

Closing sales were about the top, with wheat showing gains of $\frac{1}{2}$ to $4 \frac{3}{4}$ cents a bushel, May leading.

Mills were moderate buyers at times, regarded as against sales of flour to the Government. Numerous stop loss orders were uncovered on the way up. Brokers reported that small orders had considerable effect either way in May, but that the new crop months were not influenced so easily.

Part of the buying of May wheat was attributed to reports that the Government might step up its export program by 50,000,000 bushels to furnish additional relief for Europe. It was figured that if this were done, the carryover at the end of the current crop year would be the smallest in recent years.

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From Wall Street Journal, April 8 -

COSTLY COCOA has candy bar manufacturers in a hot seat-The cocoa bean was worth nine cents a pound only last October. Today it costs 30 cents a pound, up 233% in half a year. And cocoa beans are chocolate in the raw.

The worst is ahead. The 30-cent cocoa hasn't yet reached the candy bar. Average value of manufacturers' cocoa inventories is around 20 to 22 cents a pound. In the teeth of consumer resistance, chocolate products prices may be forced even higher as the more expensive beans are used.

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WHEAT EXPORTS from the 1947 crop won't be allowed to leave our bins bare-The barrel bottom scraping that kicked wheat up to \$3 a bushel a few weeks ago stirred some thinking in the Agriculture Department. And Secretary Anderson's advisers are urging him to announce soon that wheat exports during the coming season will be regulated to leave adequate supplies here.

Anderson is expected to follow the advice of his henchmen and announce an "export range" of from 200 to 300 million bushels of wheat (and flour equivalent) for the crop season starting at mid year--rather than a fixed export goal.

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From Wall Street Journal, April 8 -

MIDWEST DAIRYMEN WORRY OVER AMERICA'S LOST BUTTER APPETITE-During the war, butter was sidetracked for cheese. The cheese poured overseas in a torrent to feed soldiers and Allied civilians. Butter churns were neglected.

And Americans sort of slipped into the habit of getting along with less butter. They haven't yet dropped the habit. In 1940 the per capita butter eating was 17 pounds. The yearly rate is now down to 10 pounds. And dairymen would like to see it go to 20.

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SENATE PASSES BILL CONTINUING HIGH WOOL PRICE TO U.S. GROWERS-Washington-The Senate yesterday passed legislation guaranteeing continued high prices to domestic wool growers.

The bill, which now goes to the House of Representatives, requires the Commodity Credit Corp. to lend or pay wool producers during 1947 and 1948 at least the price it paid in 1946, which was about 41.6 cents per pound.

The Senate bill has even more widespread ramifications. In order to discourage imports, principally from the British Empire, and to enable the CCC to dispose of some 380 million pounds of wool purchased thus far, it authorizes this agency to sell wool at prices competitive with foreign fibers.

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CATTLE AND HOGS were fully steady in a fairly active livestock market, but quality on slaughter lamb offerings was lowed to bring bids as much as 50 cents less. Hogs topped at \$27.50 with most good and choice butchers ranging downward from that figure to \$25.00. Comparable quality sows brought \$22.50 to \$23.25. A load of choice to prime steers featured the cattle trade with a sales tag of \$29.75, the highest price since March 5.

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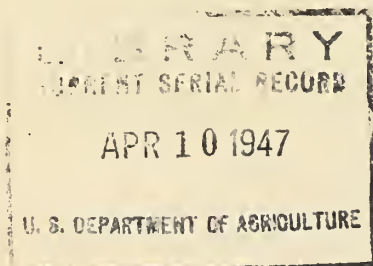
From N.Y. Journal of Commerce, April 8 -

POTASH OUTPUT TOTALS 923,127 TONS-Five leading American potash producers made a new high record when they delivered 923,127 tons during 1946, the American Potash Institute announced yesterday.

The figure was 54,941 tons or 6.3 percent greater than 1945 and continued for the twelfth year the unbroken record of increased deliveries, Institute officials declared. The total was in the form of 1,657,603 tons of potash salts.

Deliveries of agricultural purposes in the continental United States were 763,590 tons, an increase of 68,514 tons over 1945.

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Farm Digest 715-47-2

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SUGAR CONTROL BEYOND OCTOBER SEEN - World sugar supplies will not have returned to normal by next October, and consequently, it is almost sure, according to Senator Jose Manuel Casanova, leader in the Cuban sugar industry, that "in October there will be again the need of extending the control of supplies and prices in the United States, if it is that the Congress of that nation maintains its sound and far-seeing policy of preventing disorder and chaos to govern the sugar market."

To support his own view of the sugar outlook Casanova quotes E.D. & F. Man of London. The Man company points out that it took six years after the last war to bring about a balance in sugar affairs. Should history repeat itself the Man company states that we could not expect normal circumstances until the year 1950, adding "and it seems that this insinuation is going to prove itself to be true."

They point to the total exhaustion of world stocks; reported sales in Brazil of raw sugar testing 80 to 87 degrees at about 12¢; possibility of consumption in one year in United States reaching 10,000,000 tons; the increase in consumption of sugar in some world centers such as South Africa which has increased use from 50,000,000 tons in 1936 to 445,000 in 1945.

CITRUS CANNERS LIMIT OFFERINGS - Reports at the week-end stated that some leading Florida citrus canners withdrew quotations owing to the rapid price advances in fresh fruit.

All orders are now subject to packer confirmation, with juice prices named to the buyer after the fresh fruit has been purchased. Many canners are shipping orange juice almost as fast as it is packed. Grapefruit, however, is dragging, but a pickup is expected if orange juice advances further. Trade estimates indicate orange juice carry-over will be small; with end of active season expected around May 15.

ASKS CANNED FOOD SURPLUS EXPORT, Clyde, Ohio - With prices of grains, fats, and livestock driven to inflationary levels, one part of the canning industry today urged that surplus American canned goods be used for relief feeding overseas.

The National Kraut Packers Association, whose headquarters are here, declared in a statement issued by its president, John M. Stroup of Phelps, N.Y., that such purchases and shipments of surplus canned goods would result in multiple benefits.

From the New York Times, April 7 -

COTTON PLANTINGS DUE FOR SHARP RISE - Private surveys of growers' intentions to plant as of April 1 suggested for 1947 a prospective cotton acreage of 20,600,000 to 20,800,000 acres or 13 to 14 percent more than the plantings of 18,179,000 acres in 1946. According to the New York Cotton Exchange Service Bureau, trade ideas of probable plantings this year range from 20,500,000 to 21,500,000 acres, indicating a production of 10,700,000 to 11,100,000 running bales.

As a result of a net advance in the Brazilian cotton market and a net decline in the domestic market, the spread between the export price of Brazilian cotton and the export price of American cotton narrowed by slightly better than a cent a pound in the week ended last Wednesday.

From New York Herald Tribune, Apr. 2 -

ALL BRITISH EMPIRE NATIONS TO ASK 50% CUT IN U. S. WOOL TARIFF - London - A unanimous demand for a 50 per cent reduction in the American tariff on wool will be made by the countries of the British Empire at the Geneva trade conference which opens next week, it was learned today.

The demand will be regarded by the British Empire as the focal point of the entire Geneva tariff negotiations, in which seventeen countries will take part. Agreement on the joint demand has been reached at a British Commonwealth conference on imperial preference tariffs which has been going on in London for three weeks as a preliminary to the Geneva meeting.

Australia and South Africa will spearhead the joint British drive for reduction of the British drive for reduction of the American wool tariff. They will be supported by Great Britain, Canada, New Zealand and India, all of which have an active interest in this tariff either as producers or manufacturers.

Canada probably will demand a reduction in the America newsprint tariff before she will give up her preference tariff on such an item as raisins.

Carrying the example of the Canadian raisin tariff a step further, some idea of the merry-go-round which will be revolving at Geneva can be gained. The raisin duty virtually excludes California raisins from the Canadian market - a market the United States obviously would like to gain. Yet Australia, being a British Empire country, can sell its raisins to Canada at a great advantage, despite having to transport them 5,000 miles, because of the Empire preference system.

If Australia should lose its Canadian market for raisins, it must gain an American market for its wool to keep its trade in balance. Likewise, if Canada is to admit raisins from California, it will want some sort of concession in return, and this brings us back to the American tax on newsprint.

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From St. Paul (Minn.) Pioneer Press, Mar. 31 -

SOUTH DAKOTA FARM LABOR SEEN STILL SHORT - Brookings, S. D. - The South Dakota farm labor situation will remain acute this year, W. E. Dittmer, state farm labor supervisor, reported.

The demand for help for spring work is equal to that of the war years in many counties, and above the war peak in some sections of the state.

"Last year we expected that the return of veterans would materially ease the demand for help, Dittmer said. "However, the percentage of returned veterans seeking employment on farms is relatively small, and we find ourselves with just as big a farm problem this year as we had in 1946."

Dittmer urged farmers to request help as far in advance of needs as possible. Workers placed on South Dakota farms last year totaled 54,317.

From Grand Rapids (Mich) Press, Apr. 1 - - - - -

OUTLINE TENTATIVE PROGRAM FOR HOLLAND TULIP FESTIVAL - Holland, Mich. - Tulip time on May 14-17 will be featured by films of old and new Holland and a variety of musical events, in addition to the annual street cleaning and visits to tulip farms and places of interest, the committee announced Tuesday in releasing the tentative program of events.

The program this year will be held in conjunction with Holland's Centennial observance, of which Cornelius VanderMeulen is chairman.

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From N.Y. Journal of Commerce, April 7 -

SUGAR CONTROL BEYOND OCTOBER SEEN - World sugar supplies will not have returned to normal by next October, and consequently, it is almost sure, according to Senator Jose Manuel Casanova, leader in the Cuban sugar industry, that "in October there will be again the need of extending the control of supplies and prices in the United States, if it is that the Congress of that nation maintains its sound and far-seeing policy of preventing disorder and chaos to govern the sugar market."

To support his own view of the sugar outlook Casanova quotes E.D. & F. Man of London. The Man company points out that it took six years after the last war to bring about a balance in sugar affairs. Should history repeat itself the Man company states that we could not expect normal circumstances until the year 1950, adding "and it seems that this insinuation is going to prove itself to be true."

They point to the total exhaustion of world stocks; reported sales in Brazil of raw sugar testing 80 to 87 degrees at about 12¢; possibility of consumption in one year in United States reaching 10,000,000 tons; the increase in consumption of sugar in some world centers such as South Africa which has increased use from 50,000,000 tons in 1936 to 445,000 in 1945.

CITRUS CANNERS LIMIT OFFERINGS - Reports at the week-end stated that some leading Florida citrus canners withdrew quotations owing to the rapid price advances in fresh fruit.

All orders are now subject to packer confirmation, with juice prices named to the buyer after the fresh fruit has been purchased. Many canners are shipping orange juice almost as fast as it is packed. Grapefruit, however, is dragging, but a pickup is expected if orange juice advances further. Trade estimates indicate orange juice carry-over will be small, with end of active season expected around May 15.

ASKS CANNED FOOD SURPLUS EXPORT, Clyde, Ohio - With prices of grains, fats, and livestock driven to inflationary levels, one part of the canning industry today urged that surplus American canned goods be used for relief feeding overseas.

The National Kraut Packers Association, whose headquarters are here, declared in a statement issued by its president, John M. Stroup of Phelps, N.Y., that such purchases and shipments of surplus canned goods would result in multiple benefits.

From the New York Times, April 7 -

COTTON PLANTINGS DUE FOR SHARP RISE - Private surveys of growers' intentions to plant, as of April 1 suggested for 1947 a prospective cotton acreage of 20,600,000 to 20,800,000 acres or 13 to 14 percent more than the plantings of 18,179,000 acres in 1946. According to the New York Cotton Exchange Service Bureau, trade ideas of probable plantings this year range from 20,500,000 to 21,500,000 acres, indicating a production of 10,700,000 to 11,100,000 running bales.

As a result of a net advance in the Brazilian cotton market and a net decline in the domestic market, the spread between the export price of Brazilian cotton and the export price of American cotton narrowed by slightly better than a cent a pound in the week ended last Wednesday.

From New York Herald Tribune, Apr. 2 -

ALL BRITISH EMPIRE NATIONS TO ASK 50% CUT IN U. S. WOOL TARIFF - London - A unanimous demand for a 50 per cent reduction in the American tariff on wool will be made by the countries of the British Empire at the Geneva trade conference which opens next week, it was learned today.

The demand will be regarded by the British Empire as the focal point of the entire Geneva tariff negotiations, in which seventeen countries will take part. Agreement on the joint demand has been reached at a British Commonwealth conference on imperial preference tariffs which has been going on in London for three weeks as a preliminary to the Geneva meeting.

Australia and South Africa will spearhead the joint British drive for reduction of the British drive for reduction of the American wool tariff. They will be supported by Great Britain, Canada, New Zealand and India, all of which have an active interest in this tariff either as producers or manufacturers.

Canada probably will demand a reduction in the America newsprint tariff before she will give up her preference tariff on such an item as raisins.

Carrying the example of the Canadian raisin tariff a step further, some idea of the merry-go-round which will be revolving at Geneva can be gained. The raisin duty virtually excludes California raisins from the Canadian market - a market the United States obviously would like to gain. Yet Australia, being a British Empire country, can sell its raisins to Canada at a great advantage, despite having to transport them 5,000 miles, because of the Empire preference system.

If Australia should lose its Canadian market for raisins, it must gain an American market for its wool to keep its trade in balance. Likewise, if Canada is to admit raisins from California, it will want some sort of concession in return, and this brings us back to the American tax on newsprint.

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From St. Paul (Minn.) Pioneer Press, Mar. 31 -

SOUTH DAKOTA FARM LABOR SEEN STILL SHORT - Brookings, S. D. - The South Dakota farm labor situation will remain acute this year, W. E. Dittmer, state farm labor supervisor, reported.

The demand for help for spring work is equal to that of the war years in many counties, and above the war peak in some sections of the state.

"Last year we expected that the return of veterans would materially ease the demand for help, Dittmer said. "However, the percentage of returned veterans seeking employment on farms is relatively small, and we find ourselves with just as big a farm problem this year as we had in 1946."

Dittmer urged farmers to request help as far in advance of needs as possible. Workers placed on South Dakota farms last year totaled 54,317.

From Grand Rapids (Mich) Press, Apr. 1 - - -

OUTLINE TENTATIVE PROGRAM FOR HOLLAND TULIP FESTIVAL - Holland, Mich. - Tulip time on May 14-17 will be featured by films of old and new Holland and a variety of musical events, in addition to the annual street cleaning and visits to tulip farms and places of interest, the committee announced Tuesday in releasing the tentative program of events.

The program this year will be held in conjunction with Holland's Centennial observance, of which Cornelius VanderMeulen is chairman.

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DAILY FARM NEWS DIGEST
(For April 17, 1947)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Office of Information
Washington 25, D.C.

(The newspapers and magazines from which these agricultural items are taken are on file in Press Service, Room 414A. Phone Gene Harrison at 6031)

From New York Journal of Commerce, April 17 -

FARM SUPPORT HELD FOOD PRICE CURB; ANDERSON STATES SUBSIDIES ASSURED HIGH RATE OF PRODUCTION-Washington-Secretary of Agriculture Anderson was quoted by his office yesterday as believing that the Government's farm price support program has prevented higher food costs than now prevail because it encouraged high level of production.

In informal comments, given to newsmen by an aide, Anderson was quoted as adding:

"The Administration's whole effort since Pearl Harbor--Dec. 7, 1941--has been to hold food prices at a reasonable level.

"To this end, farmers were assured that prices of specified commodities would be supported for two years following the end of hostilities, but this assurance was specifically and in fact offset to the price control legislation as indicated by its inclusion in the Stabilization Act approved Oct. 2, 1942."

U.S. ASKS U.K. CUT TARIFF ON TOBACCO-Geneva-Wintrop Brown, chairman of the U.S. Trade Agreement Committee, said today America has called upon Britain to reduce its tariffs on tobacco, among other important commodities.

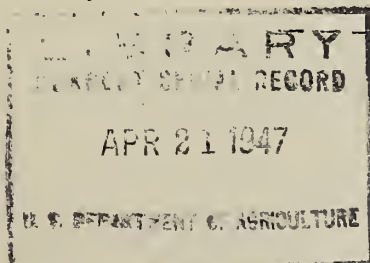
From New York Times, April 17 -

BRITAIN EXPECTED TO CUT HER FOOD IMPORTS AGAIN-London-All signs today pointed to cuts in Britain's food imports. This in turn may mean reductions in the meager food rations and the lowering of the British standard of living.

Hugh Dalton, Chancellor of the Exchequer, foreshadowed it in his budget speech yesterday when he said, "Our import program must be severely limited and much of this will be disagreeable." He also warned that huge subsidies of nearly \$300,000,000 to keep food prices down could not be continued indefinitely.

From Wall Street Journal, April 17 -

AMERICAN SUGAR TO SHOW IMPROVED DELIVERIES IN 1947-Flemington-Meltings and deliveries of sugar by American Sugar Refining Co. this year will be much better than in 1946 because of increased allotments allowed by the Government, it was stated by Joseph F. Abbott, president.



Farm Digest 775-47

From Lancaster (Pa.) Intelligencer Journal, Apr. 5 -

FEED SITUATION AIDS DAIRYMEN - "The improved outlook for dairy feed is encouraging to the dairyman," according to David F. Harnish, president of the Lancaster County Ayrshire Breeders Association, in reviewing the present-day trends.

"Better feed conditions should enable the dairyman not only to do his job better in 1947 than he did in 1946, but it should help him to raise his calves and heifers better so that in the future his tools will be still more efficient than they have in the past," Harnish added.

"We as dairymen must realize the better we care for our dairy herds, the better they will care for us."

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From Baltimore Sun, Apr. 13 -

SLASH IN FOOD PRICES URGED BY U. S. GROCERS; NATIONAL GROUP ASKS 70,000 MEMBERS TO WORK FOR 'REASONABLE LEVELS' - Chicago - The National Association of Retail Grocers advised President Truman today it had called on its nearly 70,000 members to work with suppliers to bring food prices down to "reasonable levels."

At the same time, the National Association of Retail Meat Dealers announced it "continuously" had been urging its members to hold meat prices to "lowest possible levels" and the American Meat Institute reported a record production of beef last month already has resulted in price reductions to "attractive levels."

The American Meat Institute said a check of wholesale meat prices showed an average decline of about ten percent from prices prevailing a month ago and about twenty per cent below the price peak reached after the removal of OPA price controls last October.

The Institute said various beef and pork cuts were now "good buys almost anywhere."

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From Boston (Mass.) Globe, Apr. 2 -

/ CALLING ALL GARDENERS! - Home gardens played a notable part in the intense struggle for production during the war years in America. They were responsible for a tremendous portion of the national food supply. Thus they helped to take an appreciable burden of consumer demand from the farms, enabling the latter to concentrate more singlemindedly upon the gigantic job of meeting war demands.

As things look at present, both from the standpoint of the government's relief programs in foreign lands and from the much more acutely realized facts of domestic food prices from the Atlantic seaboard to the Pacific Ocean, the foresighted householder will be wise if he plans as large a home garden as he can manage, comfortably, with the help and means at his disposal.

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EDITORIAL CROSS SECTION

From the Journal of Commerce, New York, Apr. 16 -

ARE FOOD PRICES COMING DOWN? - The Government has been blamed for pushing food prices up by its support operations. A good deal of this criticism is not justified. Actually, the great majority of farm products are far above these floor levels. Active price support operations have been carried out only in a few cases, the most important instance being potatoes.

The Government stepped up its overseas relief shipments from 275,000,000 to 400,000,000 bushels in March, when supplies on hand were near their seasonal low point. Had the purchases been made last fall when stocks on hand were much larger, the effect would have been far less spectacular.

The Department of Agriculture still expects farm prices to soften as new crops come to market. . . . The combination of large crops and some consumer resistance to high prices could bring about a material fall in the average level of food prices between now and the end of the year.

From Atlanta (Ga.) Constitution, Apr. 13 -

LET'S AVOID A 'BUST' - Let us assume a beneficent philanthropist were to announce that due to the high cost of food he was going to give to every man, woman and child in the country an even \$1,000.

It would not at all mean any more food for each man, woman and child. There is only so much food.

The extra money would simply mean eggs would go to about \$5 per dozen and bread, meat and milk to levels as astronomical.

Food prices currently are high for the reason that we are helping peoples of starving countries, and, too, because the Spring crops have not yet begun to come in here and abroad. When they do prices will decline.

That is a great oversimplification of it, and by no means the whole story, but it is the basic story.

From Star-Telegram, Fort Worth, Tex., Apr. 1 -

FIRE ON THE FARM - It is economical to clean up. It saves dollars. Last year the loss by fire to American farmers was more than \$100,000,000. That would have paid for a lot of cleaning up. And then, there's the hospital bill for several thousands who burned by the flames. That amounts to other millions -- besides the pain suffered by the fire victims.

"Clean up -- don't burn up," is good advice.

From Kansas City Times, Apr. 9 -

GOING INTO PRICES - At some time, and it would be better soon, industry must be content with fair profits and labor with fair wages. Then with abundant production the price situation will be adjusted at more normal and less hurtful levels.

From the Herald, Lexington, Ky., Apr. 3 -

REAL HELP TO FARMERS - There has been intelligent statesmanship on the part of Kentucky members of Congress from both parties and all tobacco states. Representatives from tobacco states met with Secretary of Agriculture Anderson. They discussed foreign markets for tobacco.

For the first time, apparently, flue-cured and burley tobacco spokesmen are in agreement in regard to foreign markets. Flue-cured tobacco representatives now are realizing that when blended tobacco is used a pound of one is sold for every pound of the other variety. This may not apply to the market in England but will apply to markets developed in the rest of Europe.

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From the New York Times, Apr. 13 --

SAVING THE SOIL - A recent announcement from the Soil Conservation Service of the Department of Agriculture emphasizes two important points. First, efforts to save the nation's topsoil are making progress; second, we still have a considerable distance to go. The statistics of the past are sober reading. The Service estimates that between 1895 and 1930 a full million acres of topsoil were lost each year; that more than 50 percent of the country's farmlands have been damaged to some degree by wind or water erosion; that the cost has been about four billion dollars annually.

Since 1930 the rate of damage has been slowed to approximately half a million acres a year. . . . A significant victory for the conservationists came in 1935 when the Congress passed the Soil Conservation Act and the Soil Conservation Service was made a part of the Department of Agriculture. Since that date 1,650 Soil Conservation Districts have been organized. The districts are run by the participating farmers. Nearly four million of the approximately six million farms in the United States now belong to the districts. Through cooperative arrangements farmers can hire machines for terracing, draining and contouring. Soil Conservation Service experts and farmers plan strip-cropping, irrigation, cover cropping, gully planting and restoration of eroded fields.

The restoration of farmland is a world problem. Food is fundamental to a peaceful world. Efforts to save the soil must go forward to a successful conclusion.

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From Grand Junction (Colo.) Sentinel, Apr. 3 -

SUGAR SHORTAGE A CHALLENGE - Despite Americans' devotion to the old law of supply and demand, there is great satisfaction over congress' decision to continue price and distribution controls over sugar, so that each of us will have a fair chance at the apparently limited supply that will be available during the rest of this year. Under the new legislation, the sugar controls that would have expired Monday midnight have been extended until October 31.

The known scarcity of sugar the world around suggests there will be as great demand for sugar next year as there is today. This situation should challenge Western Slope sugar beet growers to expand their acreages.

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APR 22 1947
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

(The newspapers and magazines from which these agricultural items are taken are on file in Press Service, Room 414A. Phone Gene Harrison at 6031.)

From New York Times, Apr. 18

ANDERSON SAYS FARM AID COSTING MORE; RISE IN PRICES ADDS TO SUPPORT BURDEN -
Richmond, Va. - Secretary of Agriculture Clinton P. Anderson said today that rising prices were increasing the Government's financial burden under the price-support program.

In a speech before the Virginia State Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Anderson said this was still another reason why it was "more important than ever to maintain a sound and stable national economy."

The Secretary explained that support prices were based on parity and that parity in turn was based on the farmer's cost of living. Hence, he said, when the cost of living goes up, so does parity, and eventually so do support prices.

"Right now the prices of most agricultural commodities are well above the price support program," he said. "But rising prices of the things farmers buy mean parity prices for farm products at a higher level and, therefore, farm price support at a higher level."

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N. Y. STATE OFFICIAL CALLS MILK PARLEY FOR MONDAY ON PREMIUM PRICES TO AVERT EARLIER STRIKE - Albany - In an effort to avert a strike by dairy farmers supplying the New York City area, C. Chester Du Mond, State Commissioner of Agriculture, today invited producers and dealers to meet with him on Monday to consider the payment of "premium prices" on milk delivered to the metropolitan zone after May 1.

The contemplated premium prices are intended to offset a 4-cent reduction in the producer price of fluid milk that would become effective for May and June in accordance with a recent announcement of the United States Department of Agriculture, which administers the New York Milk Marketing Order.

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BIG SUGAR SUPPLY IS STORED IN JAVA; 800,000 TONS AWAIT EXPORT - Singapore - Warehouses in Java may contain 800,000 tons of sugar, most of which will be exported to help relieve the world shortage, according to Dr. Pieter Honig, general economics adviser to the Netherlands Indies Government.

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BRITAIN TO REDUCE BUYING IN DOLLARS; DALTON DEFENDS TOBACCO TAX AS 'FIRST SHOT' IN CAMPAIGN - London - Defending his drastic increase in the tax on tobacco, Hugh Dalton, Chancellor of the Exchequer, told the House of Commons tonight that this budget measure was the "first shot in a campaign for the reduction of dollar expenditure."

Despite a heavy barrage of criticism from Labor as well as Conservative M.P.'s Mr. Dalton refused to yield on the tobacco tax.

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RIISING CONSUMPTION OF MEAT IS FORECAST - Chicago - A Department of Agriculture official asserted today "it seems reasonable to expect" that considerably larger supplies of meats can be sold during 1947 "at prices which will be satisfactory to producers and packers." Addressing the convention of the National Independent Meat Packers Association, Preston Richards, Assistant Director of the Marketing Administration of the department, said that the per capita consumption of meat this year will be about 150 to 155 pounds.

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From Chicago Daily Tribune, Apr. 18 -

HOG MARKET LOWEST SINCE LATE JANUARY - Hog prices in Chicago yesterday slumped to the lowest level since Jan. 25. The market averaged 75 cents a hundred pounds lower at \$23.25. Top loads declined 50 cents at \$25, but this price was paid sparingly and similar grades finished at \$24.50 when most of the principal pork packers refused to pay more than \$24 for any grades or weights. Losses in some kinds were as much as \$1.

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From New York Journal of Commerce, April 18 -

TOBACCO TRADE URGED TO READJUST PRICES - Chicago (AP) - The National Association of Tobacco Distributors today urged the tobacco industry "to make all price readjustments that may contribute to lowering of the general price level and cost of living, while sustaining wage levels."

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SUGAR - Sugar distribution in the first two months of this year is 10,000 tons less than a year ago, although supplies are more plentiful now than they were then. Puerto Rico's production is estimated at 14 per cent above a year ago. . . . Demand for sugar continues slow.

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From Wall Street Journal, April 18 -

FARM PRICES, PACESETTERS IN HIGH COSTS, HAVE STARTED THE DOWNWARD SLIDE - B.A.E. forecasters privately predict a farm price tobeggan for the rest of '47. April's "seasonal decline" started it. Bumper winter and spring crops will give it new momentum. Exports won't expand.

They fear costly farm subsidies, tied to "parity," are now in sight. Only lower industrial prices can push farm "parity" down, avert much government spending on price support.

So worried G.O.P. budgeteers are joining the high price probers. That's why Taft's economic committee, long dormant, will ask Ford and McCormick how they cut prices, other big industrialists why they haven't.

Despite the ballyhoo, Truman has received only a dozen or so price cutting reports. None is significant.

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INDEPENDENT GROCERS CAMPAIGNING AGAINST HIGH FOOD PRICES - Chicago - A campaign against high food prices is under way by the country's retail grocers. From Vermont to Oklahoma, owners of independent groceries are marshaling forces to reduce prices. Their plan:

A series of round table discussions with retailers, wholesalers and manufacturers on greater efficiency and more favorable price structures.

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From Des Moines (Iowa) Register, Apr. 6 -

SEEKS TAX TO KEEP GRAIN A MAIN SOURCE OF RUBBER - Washington, D. C. - Hopes that the huge synthetic rubber and alcohol plants built during the war might provide a permanent industrial market for future farm surpluses have suffered a severe blow the last year.

As things look today, synthetic rubber made from grain alcohol isn't likely to regain its wartime position unless the country is forced into another war or petroleum reserves reach a dangerously low level.

In hopes of nursing the industry through the next few years, until it can be firmly established on a permanent footing, Representative Carl T. Curtis (Rep., Neb.) is urging congress to give it the necessary protection.

He has introduced a bill that would levy an excise tax on all manufactured rubber products except those using synthetic rubber made from grain alcohol.

The bill tentatively proposes a tax of seven cents a pound on the rubber used, but Representative Curtis says the levy should be fixed at whatever amount would represent the difference between the cost of natural rubber, synthetic rubber made from petroleum products and the cost of rubber made from grain alcohol.

His objective is to give agricultural rubber enough of an advantage to assure its use in great volume.

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From New Orleans Times-Picayune, Apr. 9 -

CATTLEMAN RAP MILK STRIKE ACTS; 'DAMAGE TO INDUSTRY' BY MINORITY IS CHARGED -- Lafayette, La. - Actions of labor leaders in the recent Louisiana milk strike were condemned in a resolution adopted Tuesday at the annual meeting of the Louisiana Jersey Cattle and Dairy Association. The loss of thousands of dollars to milk producers of Southwest Louisiana and the unfavorable publicity the state received as a result of the unwarranted strike was deplored.

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From Christian Science Monitor, Apr. 11 -

INDUSTRY SAYS FOOD SUBSIDIES RULE PRICES - Washington - The President's press conference on prices appears, momentarily at least, to have thrown more heat than light on the subject.

The President contends that the responsibility for reducing prices rests solely on business. But business comes right back and says that Government and labor share that responsibility.

Business points out it is not the price of manufactured goods which has soared to altitude records, but the price of agricultural products and raw materials.

The major pressure on the family budget has occurred in food, management insists, and points an accusing finger at the Government, which is committed under law to support the price of farm products.

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From Wilmington (Del.) News, Apr. 11 -

TOMORROW'S FORESTS - Editorial - The forests of the future, President Truman remarked in an Arbor Day statement, will be the trees we plant now. This nation, he added, must stop destructive cutting and unwise depletion of its forest wealth. He was right. The rapid and reckless deforestation of America is one of the less responsible chapters in the history of free enterprise.

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From Chicago (Ill.) Times, Apr. 10 -

FOOD BOYCOTT HELD UNWISE BY EXPERTS - Chicago medical experts and consumers' groups today scoffed at an Illinois congressman's suggestion that housewives stop buying high priced foods.

All foods are "high priced" now, they said, and it would be neither "nutritionally nor financially" wise to buy substitutes in most cases.

Rep. Noah Mason, a Republican, was the butt of their attack. Opposing requests for government action to curb the high cost of living, Rep. Mason declared in Washington:

"The housewife has the remedy in her own hands. The only way to reduce prices of scarce food items is not to buy them; buy substitutes for them."

There are few, if any, good substitutes for the major items in the average American diet, the Chicagoans pointed out.

Dr. James Wilson, secretary, American Medical Assn.'s council for food and nutrition, said:

"There's no practical substitute for milk. The only substitute for bread and rolls would be cake. Maybe the good Congressman would like to have Illinoisans eat cake instead of bread."

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From San Diego (Calif.) Union, Apr. 7 -

MORE FEDERAL MONKEY BUSINESS - Editorial - In a time when eggs are seasonably plentiful we hear predictions of dollar-a-dozen eggs from the Butter and Eggs Merchants Association. It is suggested that eggs at a dime apiece may be the result of a decree by the Agriculture Department increasing the price of powdered eggs from \$1.20 to \$1.26, effective May 1. The result of this decree is expected to be the diversion of vast quantities of eggs from the consumer market to the processors of dried eggs, with a shortage which will boost the price to retail buyers.

If there is one particular thing which should convince the American public of the disadvantages of governmental "management," it is the record of the government in dealing with eggs and poultry. Twice the government has been "stuck" with millions of dozens of eggs, purchased at high prices to "support" the market. Twice the poultrymen have been fooled by government orders to increase production and to kill off laying hens. But the "support" policy continues.

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From Shreveport (La.) Times, Apr. 7 -

PLENTY OF WOOL - Editorial - What many average Americans do not know is that certain high prices reflect, not shortages, but federal government coddling of farm producers.

An excellent example is found in wool. There is today a gigantic world surplus of wool, and the price of wool outside the United States is considerably lower than it is in the United States. The reason for the difference is that the federal government -- through action of congress -- buys domestic wool production at a price guaranteeing a large profit for producers.

The result is that the government has accumulated a huge supply of wool, while American mills have been importing sizeable quantities of foreign wool because of the lower price. Now, because of the government-held surplus, congress is being asked to allow the Commodity Credit Corporation to sell its wool at prices competing with foreign wool -- the American taxpayer being called upon to foot the bill for this costly piece of governmental folly.

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DAILY FARM NEWS DIGEST
(For April 21, 1947)

APR 23 1947
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Office of Information
Washington 25, D.C.

(The newspapers and magazines from which these agricultural items are taken are on file in Press Service, Room 414A. Phone Gene Harrison at 6031.)

From New York Times, April 21 -

FARM PAY HIGHER IN STATE; \$101 A MONTH PLUS BOARD IS REPORTED 9% ABOVE 1946-Albany-Farm wage rates in New York, averaging about \$101 a month with board additional, run about 9 percent higher than a year ago, the Agriculture Department said today.

In a Federal-State report, it indicated that the average farm wage on April 1 was 50 percent higher than in 1943 and the rate "nearly two and one-half times as great as on April 1, 1941".

DECRY PUERTO RICO PRICES; 5,000 CONSUMERS DEMAND PURCHASE OF FOODSTUFFS FROM U.S.-San Juan-More than 5,000 consumers met today on the Sixto Escobar Athletic Grounds to protest against the high prices of foodstuffs and demand that Gov. T. J. Pinero sign a measure giving Government markets the right to buy food in the United States.

Dr. Pablo Morales Otero, director of the Graduate School of Tropical Medicine, told the meeting that many Puerto Ricans were going without essential goods because of high prices.

MORE CITIES TAXING SALES, TOBACCO, LIQUOR IN DRIVE FOR REVENUE TO OFFSET HIGH COSTS-Chicago-More cities are putting taxes on sales, tobacco, liquor and gasoline for additional revenue to offset mounting costs.

OUTLOOK HELD GOOD FOR FROZEN FOODS-Chicago-Prices of frozen foods are continuing downward and are coming in line with those of fresh fruits and vegetables but as long as the price of raw commodities remains high, the cost of frozen foods will not drop to the low levels expected by the industry, Charles E. Wurm, president of the Quick Frozen Food Association of Chicago said today.

From Chicago Daily Tribune, April 21 -

UNDERFED RECRUITS TO GET BUILD UP COURSE IN BRITAIN-London-Because nearly 10 percent of the 18 year old recruits are unfit for regular army training, owing to undernourishment and physical defects, the war office is establishing special "physical development centers." The boys will remain in the centers for nine weeks during which they will receive extra meat, fat, and bread rations--3,600 calories compared with the ordinary soldiers 2,900.

From San Antonio, (Tex.) Express, April 11 -

RETURN OF FARM PLACEMENT TO STATE AGENCIES ADVOCATED--A plea for the return of the farm placement program, now under the administration of county agents over the state, to the state employment services, was sounded Thursday by Robert M. McKinley, labor member of the Texas Unemployment Compensation Commission. The program is now administered by county agents over the state. He spoke to 60 delegates attending the seven state employment security conference.

McKinley compared the farm placement program, as it now operates, to an arm "limp in a sling." He suggested that the program should be jointly administered along with the rural industries program, by state agencies.

Advantages to this move, according to McKinley, are fourfold: For the relief of the county agents, many of whom do the job "against their desires," so agricultural labor can be transported freely within a state; for the convenience of the applicants for agricultural work, and "to cut appreciably" the cost of administering the program.

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From Mankato, (Minn.) Free Press, April 7 -

FOLLOWS THE USUAL PATTERN--Editorial--Twenty three years ago, during the agricultural depression following the first World War, the state of Minnesota went into the farm loan business.

Last week the legislature wrote off the books the last obligations of this experiment in state financing--recording a loss to the taxpayers of more than 40 millions. Granting that the state rural credits department was mis-managed in several past administrations; granting that politicians took advantage of it to the detriment of the taxpayer; the fact remains that the history of this departure into governmental financing follows the pattern of most such ventures.

They usually result in an eventual loss, and a heavy one, to those citizens who pay their way, scrape and save and foot the losses of their less businesslike brethern.

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From Burlington (Vt.) Free Press, April 7 -

POULTRY, EGG PRICES--Editorial--Opinion research in the nation's barnyards is being carried on this spring by the United States Department of Agriculture, sampling sentiment on a proposal that the Government stop supporting poultry and egg prices.

This polling was suggested by the chicken and egg industry itself. The idea is said to have come from the Associated Poultry and Egg Industries, which is a sort of holding company for nine big poultry and egg associations. In asking the government to discontinue the support price program for poultry and eggs, this organization contends that price propping encourages overproduction and makes it difficult for chicken raisers to get back to a normal peacetime scale of operations.

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From Memphis Commercial Appeal, April 8 -

COTTON RESEARCH PROGRAM BELIEVED THREATENED BY INEPTNESS IN DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE - Cotton men who are in touch with the Washington situation feel that there is little hope of obtaining the appropriation necessary to begin the research program authorized by the Hope-Flannagan Bill at the present time.

It had been expected when Congress convened last January that some \$19,000,000 would be included in the Deficiency Bill to get the program under way in order that a full appropriation could be made for the fiscal year beginning July 1.

Not only is it unlikely that there will be a deficiency appropriation, but there is some question that there will be a regular appropriation.

The trouble apparently is political. It seems that the Republican members of the Agricultural Committees in Congress do not like the setup provided by Secretary Anderson within his department for the handling of research. Within recent months four men have been named to handle some part of the research program, with no clear definition of the limitations placed on any of them. The result has been four men attempting to go four different ways, with their ideas and directives overlapping. The Republicans are inclined to let the confusion grow in the hope that it will permit them later to make political capital out of it. They want the research program, but they want to be able to say: "Here is a workable program which we developed after the Democrats messed up the one they tried to promote."

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From Chicago Journal of Commerce, Apr. 17 -

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WOOL: WILL IT SET U. S. TARIFF POLICY? - Washington - As the rest of the world anxiously watches the extent of the willingness of the United States to reduce trade barriers, the question of a wool tariff suddenly has reached Congress. It will supply what some observers think may be a test case for the whole momentous problem.

Representatives of 18 nations are at Geneva avowedly seeking to cut tariffs stimulate trade, and promote world peace. In the United States, simultaneously, the specific problem has emerged of what to do about wool. The other nations are scanning the United States closely. They want to know what tariff policy will emerge. Will it be the old Smoot-Hawley, high-tariff policy? Or the newer Cordell Hull program of reciprocal trade agreements?

The question of wool, it is believed, brings tariff generalities down to a practical, specific case. It immediately has raised the question of the running disagreement between the State Department, whose representatives at Geneva are seeking to reduce tariffs, and the hard-headed, practical members of the Republican-dominated House Ways and Means Committee, who are deeply conscious of the Geneva program.

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The contract provides for a 50-50 sharing of any prospective price increase. There was no such provision in the 1946 contract.

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(For April 22, 1947)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Office of Information
Washington 25, D.C.

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Floors under consumption could be provided, he said, by "a surplus distribution program of perhaps some sort of food allotment program available at all times--something flexible enough to meet both chronic and acute" shortages of buying power.

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He said consumer food demands are likely to remain high for some time and that the farmers should train their long range production sights on an expanded, rather than a restricted, output.

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SAYS FOODS PASSED PEAK: WILLIS TELLS CHAIN PARLEY PRICES ARE NOW DECLINING--San Diego--Paul S. Willis of New York, president of the Grocery Manufacturers of America, Inc., said here today that food prices had reached their peak and were declining.

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Price "trimming" on canned foods (already started) could easily turn into sharp price "cutting" by summer.

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He did not identify these (interests" more specifically nor connect up the "drive" directly with President Truman's campaign for lower prices..

Both industry and labor have been pointing to high food prices, however, as one of the explanations for high wages and prices of manufactured goods.

"We should proceed with extreme caution," Rep. Andersen said, "before we decide as a nation to again allow anything other than the law of supply and demand to dictate our price levels."

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Union officials also condemned the 32 cents per hour wage scale set up in the application as "undermining the living standards" of South-western farm workers..

Application for the farm worker importation was filed by Ord Gary, representative of the association, and represented that there was a dearth of domestic workers according to George Webber, district vice-president of the A.F.L., U. S. Immigration Service officials, referred the association's application to Webber, who advised that domestic labor could be supplied at the prevailing farm worker rate of 60 cents per hour. American workers are available in the Southwest and can be supplied in time to meet the seasonal demand, Webber said, if the standard wage scale is operative..

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PRESIDENT AND PRICES - Editorial - President Truman has drawn two sharply contrasting kinds of response to his urgent plea for price cuts.. Some businessmen are answering with sharp price reductions. Others are replying with sharp criticism.. Both may help..

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RISING PRICES - Editorial - A special cabinet meeting, well advertised in advance, has considered the question of rising prices. Thus Mr. Truman hopes to get a reputation as the housewife's friend. He has made a gesture which is supposed to indicate to everybody that he disapproves of increases in the cost of living and is considering ways and means of preventing them.

When Mr. Truman gets around to examining causes and proposing remedies, it is to be hoped that he does not overlook his own responsibilities. There is the matter of foreign loans, for example, some of which he has made already and others which he intends to make. Their purpose is to give foreign customers increased purchasing power in this country at a time when the domestic demand is already great. Mr. Truman has made it easy for foreign consumers and manufacturers to compete with our own people for a limited supply of goods. He has therefore made a major contribution to the price advance that has taken place.

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PRICE RESPONSIBILITY - Editorial - A special Cabinet meeting called by the President to consider the price situation is a rare event. The present price level is probably sufficient justification in itself for summoning such an extraordinary conference. But beyond that is Mr. Truman's frank expression of his personal concern about high prices.

It may be conceded that the presidential anxiety is genuine. Mr. Truman may be thinking about the problem in purely economic terms. It is not beyond the realm of possibility, however, that he is also considering the potential political consequences for his Administration if price inflation is not brought to a halt. It would be even better if prices could be pushed downward.

The President is to be commended for bringing the price issue so sharply into focus by calling a special cabinet meeting.

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From Philadelphia Bulletin, Apr. 17 -

COMEBACK FOR CHESTNUTS - Editorial - After about 40 years, there's hope that the tasty chestnut again will thrive in Pennsylvania's fields and forests eventually producing a timber crop that once was worth millions annually.

In co-operation with forest pathologists of the Federal Department of Agriculture, the State Department of Forests and Waters is planting 60 hybrid seedlings in Logan forest, Huntingdon County. The hybrid is a cross between the American chestnut and the Asiatic tree, which has been blight resistant. It retains the quality of the American nut, which the Asiatic variety lacked. Tests made for twelve years in the South have indicated that the new type is immune to the blight.

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From Montgomery (Ala.) Advertiser, Apr. 7 -

GOOD LEWS - Editorial - Hundreds of Alabama farmers will pooh-pooh the idea that growing corn should not be plowed after it reaches a height of two and a half feet.

Why, two and a half feet would only put it up to Old Beck's bellyband, and the standard, rule-of-thumb practice in "laying by" corn is to give it a last plowing when the corn reaches half way up her collarbones. Late plowing cuts thousands of tiny roots and cuts production.

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From New York Times, April 21 -

FARM PAY HIGHER IN STATE; \$101 A MONTH PLUS BOARD IS REPORTED 9% ABOVE 1946-Albany-Farm wage rates in New York, averaging about \$101 a month with board additional, run about 9 percent higher than a year ago, the Agriculture Department said today.

In a Federal-State report, it indicated that the average farm wage on April 1 was 50 percent higher than in 1943 and the rate "nearly two and one-half times as great as on April 1, 1941".

DECRY PUERTO RICO PRICES; 5,000 CONSUMERS DEMAND PURCHASE OF FOODSTUFFS FROM U.S.-San Juan-More than 5,000 consumers met today on the Sixto Escobar Athletic Grounds to protest against the high prices of foodstuffs and demand that Gov. T. J. Pinero sign a measure giving Government markets the right to buy food in the United States.

Dr. Pablo Morales Otero, director of the Graduate School of Tropical Medicine, told the meeting that many Puerto Ricans were going without essential goods because of high prices.

MORE CITIES TAXING SALES, TOBACCO, LIQUOR IN DRIVE FOR REVENUE TO OFFSET HIGH COSTS-Chicago-More cities are putting taxes on sales, tobacco, liquor and gasoline for additional revenue to offset mounting costs.

OUTLOOK HELD GOOD FOR FROZEN FOODS-Chicago-Prices of frozen foods are continuing downward and are coming in line with those of fresh fruits and vegetables but as long as the price of raw commodities remains high, the cost of frozen foods will not drop to the low levels expected by the industry, Charles E. Wurm, president of the Quick Frozen Food Association of Chicago said today.

From Chicago Daily Tribune, April 21 -

UNDERFED RECRUITS TO GET BUILD UP COURSE IN BRITAIN-London-Because nearly 10 percent of the 18 year old recruits are unfit for regular army training, owing to undernourishment and physical defects, the war office is establishing special "physical development centers." The boys will remain in the centers for nine weeks during which they will receive extra meat, fat, and bread rations--3,600 calories compared with the ordinary soldier's 2,900.

From San Antonio, (Tex.) Express, April 11 -

RETURN OF FARM PLACEMENT TO STATE AGENCIES ADVOCATED--A plea for the return of the farm placement program, now under the administration of county agents over the state, to the state employment services was sounded Thursday by Robert M. McKinley, labor member of the Texas Unemployment Compensation Commission. The program is now administered by county agents over the state. He spoke to 60 delegates attending the seven state employment security conference.

McKinley compared the farm placement program, as it now operates, to an arm "limp in a sling." He suggested that the program should be jointly administered along with the rural industries program, by state agencies.

Advantages to this move, according to McKinley, are fourfold: For the relief of the county agents, many of whom do the job "against their desires," so agricultural labor can be transported freely within a state; for the convenience of the applicants for agricultural work, and "to cut appreciably" the cost of administering the program.

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From Mankato, (Minn.) Free Press, April 7 -

FOLLOWS THE USUAL PATTERN--Editorial--Twenty three years ago, during the agricultural depression following the first World War, the state of Minnesota went into the farm loan business.

Last week the legislature wrote off the books the last obligations of this experiment in state financing--recording a loss to the taxpayers of more than 40 millions. Granting that the state rural credits department was mis-managed in several past administrations; granting that politicians took advantage of it to the detriment of the taxpayer; the fact remains that the history of this departure into governmental financing follows the pattern of most such ventures.

They usually result in an eventual loss, and a heavy one, to those citizens who pay their way, scrape and save and foot the losses of their less businesslike brethren.

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From Burlington (Vt.) Free Press, April 7 -

POULTRY, EGG PRICES--Editorial--Opinion research in the nation's barnyards is being carried on this spring by the United States Department of Agriculture, sampling sentiment on a proposal that the Government stop supporting poultry and egg prices.

This polling was suggested by the chicken and egg industry itself. The idea is said to have come from the Associated Poultry and Egg Industries, which is a sort of holding company for nine big poultry and egg associations. In asking the government to discontinue the support price program for poultry and eggs, this organization contends that price propping encourages overproduction and makes it difficult for chicken raisers to get back to a normal peacetime scale of operations.

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From Memphis Commercial Appeal, April 8 -

COTTON RESEARCH PROGRAM BELIEVED THREATENED BY INEPTNESS IN DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE. - Cotton men who are in touch with the Washington situation feel that there is little hope of obtaining the appropriation necessary to begin the research program authorized by the Hope-Flannagan Bill at the present time.

It had been expected when Congress convened last January that some \$19,000,000 would be included in the Deficiency Bill to get the program under way in order that a full appropriation could be made for the fiscal year beginning July 1.

Not only is it unlikely that there will be a deficiency appropriation, but there is some question that there will be a regular appropriation.

The trouble apparently is political. It seems that the Republican members of the Agricultural Committees in Congress do not like the setup provided by Secretary Anderson within his department for the handling of research. Within recent months four men have been named to handle some part of the research program, with no clear definition of the limitations placed on any of them. The result has been four men attempting to go four different ways, with their ideas and directives overlapping. The Republicans are inclined to let the confusion grow in the hope that it will permit them later to make political capital out of it. They want the research program, but they want to be able to say: "Here is a workable program which we developed after the Democrats messed up the one they tried to promote."

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From Philadelphia Bulletin, Apr. 17 -

COMEBACK FOR CHESTNUTS - Editorial - After about 40 years, there's hope that the tasty chestnut again will thrive in Pennsylvania's fields and forests eventually producing a timber crop that once was worth millions annually.

In co-operation with forest pathologists of the Federal Department of Agriculture, the State Department of Forests and Waters is planting 60 hybrid seedlings in Logan forest, Huntingdon County. The hybrid is a cross between the American chestnut and the Asiatic tree, which has been blight resistant. It retains the quality of the American nut, which the Asiatic variety lacked. Tests made for twelve years in the South have indicated that the new type is immune to the blight.

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From Montgomery (Ala.) Advertiser, Apr. 7 -

GOOD NEWS - Editorial - Hundreds of Alabama farmers will pooh-pooh the idea that growing corn should not be plowed after it reaches a height of two and a half feet.

Why, two and a half feet would only put it up to Old Buck's bellyband, and the standard, rule-of-thumb practice in "laying by" corn is to give it a last plowing when the corn reaches half way up her collarbones. Late plowing cuts thousands of tiny roots and cuts production.

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(The newspapers and magazines from which these agricultural items are taken are on file in Press Service, Room 414 A. Phone Gene Harrison at 6031.)

From New York Times, April 28 -

BASIC, WIDER CUTS IN PRICES SOUGHT TO FIGHT INFLATION: NEWBURYPORT PLAN HELD GOOD SO FAR AS IT GOES BUT MORE ARE URGED TO ADOPT IT-A more basic and permanent reduction in prices than the "Newburyport Plan" was demanded yesterday by consumers and some business leaders here and in Washington.

Leon H. Keyserling, vice chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers, said price cuts already made on some items were "encouraging" but did "not measure up to what needs to be done."

He called for "systematic and orderly price reductions on a large enough scale to be significant" in those industries where prices were still too high. He spoke over the Columbia Broadcasting System.

GROCERS' GROUP HEAD URGES LOWER PRICES-The food industry must deliver the prices it promised the consumer when it sought removal of controls, Patsy D'Agostino, president of the National Association of Retail Grocers warned over the weekend. In a letter urging cooperation of food suppliers in the nationwide campaign of independent retailers to obtain lower food prices.

HIGH PRICES LAID TO 'BIG BUSINESS'; TRUMAN URGED TO ACT-Washington-The National Federation of Small Business charged today that big business is responsible for "artificially high" price levels, and called upon President Truman and Congress for more effective antitrust laws and enforcement.

BAN ON IMPORT OF JAPAN COTTON BY PRIVATE BUYERS SET ASIDE-Washington-The United States Commercial Company announced today that henceforth private buyers would be allowed to bring Japanese cotton piece goods to this country for finishing and re-export to other countries.

FOOD PRICES-Editorial-The Senate-House Committee on the Economic Report, under the chairmanship of Senator Taft, has announced plans to make its own study of the question of high prices and rising cost of living. One encouraging feature of the proposed inquiry is that it places the chief emphasis where it properly belongs, namely, on farm and food prices. Since 1939 farm prices have risen 140 percent, whereas prices other than farm and food have risen only 60 percent and iron and steel prices have risen about 30 percent. The unbalance which prevails in the price structure today is due primarily to this very sharp rise in food prices and farm prices.

From N. Y. Journal of Commerce, April 28 -

HIGHER GRAIN MARGINS PROVE EFFECTIVE CURB-Washington-J. M. Mehl, Administrator of the Commodity Exchange Authority, said today that increased margin requirements adopted by grain exchanges in March materially lessened the danger of "a boom and bust market."

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GRANGE SUEMITS BROAD FARM PLAN-Washington-The National Grange handed Congress at the week-end a sweeping farm program calling for a national "economy of abundance."

Albert S. Goss, grange master who presented the plan to the House Agriculture Committee, said potential surpluses from a 35 percent increase in farm production "when and if war caused demands cease" constitute "the heart of the farm program."

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WIDE LEVELING OFF IN LUMBER PRICES BEINGS: BIG DIP SEEN BY YEAREND-Lumber prices have begun to level off throughout the country, laying the basis for a substantially lower price level before the end of the year, both manufacturers and distributors reported over the weekend.

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GE RAISES PRICES, RETAIL CUTS SPREAD-President Truman's price reduction drive received a sharp setback yesterday from industrial quarters. In the face of both Washington pressure and scattered price cuts of last week, the General Electric Co. announced that it will increase prices an average of 7 percent, following conclusion of a wage agreement for 15c an hour raises.

At the same time, the National Association of Manufacturers disclosed that only one of every five members replying to a questionnaire reported price cuts on at least one product since the beginning of the year.

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From Baltimore Sun, April 28 -

NEWBURYPORT PRICE CUTTING WINS SUPPORT-New York-The Newburyport Plan of ten percent across the board retail price cuts is receiving widely scattered support an Associated Press survey showed today.

Meanwhile, President Truman's pleas for price cutting received some industrial support.

In Newburyport, Mass. where the antiinflation experiment originated, retail merchants reported yesterday's sales were 40 percent above a normal Saturday, and attributed it to shoppers flocking in from surrounding communities.

The ten percent cuts originally were scheduled to run for ten days in that city, but sponsors of the idea are considering indefinite continuance.

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From Nashville Tennessean, Apr. 18 -

AMMO WITH A BACKFIRE - Editorial - Parity price support on hogs was hiked \$1.35 this week by the Department of Agriculture. That announcement looks like ready ammunition for the anti-OPA, anti-New Deal, anti-administration guns. The only trouble is that the ammunition has a tremendous back-kick.

Of late the big time profiteers who killed OPA for the purpose, as Mr. Truman suggested recently, of going "whole hog for profits" have been explaining that most of the lifting power in the price balloon has come from zooming farm prices. And of course the administration and its agricultural bureaucracy are responsible for that.

The falsity of the explanation is obvious when it is realized that market prices for farm goods are far above parity. The government hiked the parity price on hogs by \$1.35. But parity is still \$10 per hundred less than market price.

The administration's support policy has made agricultural prices as cheap as they are. Without the encouragement given to farmers to expand production, nobody below the \$10,000 class would or could be eating bacon today. And hams would be as rare as canvasback duck.

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From Reno (Nev.) Gazette, Apr. 16 -

PRICES AFTER TWO YEARS - Editorial - If price trends after V-J day had followed the pattern of the period after the first world war, the declines which economists are finally predicting would have been noticeable months ago.

It is now some twenty months after the end of hostilities in the second world war, but the real drop in prices after world war I began just eighteen months after the armistice.

During the eighteen months between November, 1918, and May, 1920, the general wholesale price level had risen 23 per cent. In the twenty months between August, 1945, and April, 1947, it has risen 41 per cent.

However, it has risen in 1947 from a lower base. The wholesale price index of the United States bureau of labor statistics at the end of March, 1947, was still eighteen points lower than at the peak of world war I prices in May, 1920.

The most important question being discussed by economists and laymen today is whether any general price decline now will last as long and be as precipitous as the price decline of 1920. There are a number of reasons for doubting that post-war economic history of more than a quarter-century ago will be repeated.

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From Green Bay (Wis.) Press-Gazette, Apr. 17 -

NEEDS OF THE DAIRY INDUSTRY - Editorial - A grade of evaporated milk that a working man can carry in his lunch box, open, mix with water and use as a meal-time beverage is certainly one of the great needs of the dairy industry as George E. Holm, chief of the research division of the federal bureau of dairy industry, recently told Wisconsin dairymen.

Such a discovery would certainly bring a tremendous boom to the evaporated milk industry and would go far toward eliminating the great waste of milk protein, of which Mr. Holm complains. It is his opinion that only 50.8 per cent of milk protein is now used for human food. Another great need which Mr. Holm mentions is for a consumer size package of natural cheese of one or two pounds.

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From Jackson (Miss.) Clarion-Ledger, Apr. 14 -

SPRING ON THE FARM AND EVERYTHING LOOKS GOOD - Editorial - It's the time of year when a farm looks good. Even this year, when winter hung on so stubbornly, the lure of the country is making itself felt, and in earnest, too. The United States Department of Agriculture reports that a million veterans are coming back to the farms. Half of them are starting out on a new career of farming. The rest are members of farm families, many taking over home farms from their fathers who have been holding on through the war, and are pretty tired.

Most of the new farmers are going at the business in a scientific manner. County agents round them up and hold evening meetings. They attend dairy improvement exhibits, stock shows, read technical farm journals, listen to state agricultural lecturers. When the farmer buys a tractor, his wife is apt to buy a dishwashing machine. When he contracts for 5,000 feet of electric fence for the pasture, she gets an electric refrigerator for the house. Bills? Debts? Rent? Mortgage money? They expect to meet it all. They are young. Farm prices have been good. Even if prices drop, as many think they will, they do not only expect to get by but are determined to do so.

It's a heartening story of young America going at an old vital business in a new way.

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From Richmond (Va.) Times-Dispatch, Apr. 22 -

ANOTHER APPEAL TO REASON - Editorial - Because a severe business slump in the United States must inevitably be followed by a world slump, President Truman yesterday again called for "moderation by business, forbearance by labor, all-out effort by farmers, and a solid front against tax cuts."

If the various elements in the national economy comply with the President's request, another spiral of inflation can be nipped in the bud, and the threat of a severe depression will vanish.

In repeating his appeal to common sense, the President this time made no threats and no promises. He did not seek to intimidate business by pledging labor his support of demands for still higher wages in the event that the cost of living continues to rise. Nor did he promise business immunity from antitrust laws as an inducement to a concerted price-control by business. He merely stated the case as it stands, outlined the alternative, and let it go at that.

This is a chance for business, industry, and labor to prove to totalitarian prophets of doom that the capitalist economy can avert a crisis without governmental coercion. Should it fail to do so, the advocates of bureaucratic control and straitjacket security will be able to gloat, "I told you so."

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From St. Louis (Mo.) Post-Dispatch, Apr. 21 -

TOMATOES HIGHEST IN FIFTY YEARS OF DEALER'S MEMORY - Tomatoes were selling on Produce Row here this morning at the highest price in the 50 years' marketing experience of one dealer, and will go still higher toward the end of the week, it was reported. Dealers are charging about \$9.50 for a lug of 25 to 30 pounds, as compared with a normal price of \$4 or \$5, and last week's figures of \$6

Rains and frost in Florida have washed out that usual source of supply for tomatoes and green peppers, dealers explained.

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(The newspapers and magazines from which these agricultural items are taken are on file in Press Service, Room 414A. Phone Gene Harrison at 6031.)

From New York Times, April 23 -

FOOD-BUYING PLAN OF ANDERSON URGED; INDUSTRY LEADERS HOLD MORE PURCHASING POWER IN LIEU OF LESS OUTPUT RIGHT APPROACH - Secretary of Agriculture Clinton P. Anderson's proposed plan to increase food buying power rather than cut food production was greeted as a more realistic approach to the surplus problem by leaders of the food industry yesterday. They warned, however, success of the program and the degree of support it will receive from the food industry will depend on how it is implemented.

Success of the food-stamp plan in the late Thirties, they pointed out, was largely due to the fact that the Government kept it out of bureaucratic hands and allowed the food to pass to the consumer through normal distribution channels.

By the same token, they said, the Government's first efforts in this field following collapse of farm prices after 1929 resulted in complete market chaos. Government buying of farm commodities at that time and its dumping of them indiscriminately on the market disrupted normal trade channels, they noted, and was generally unsuccessful in fulfilling its aims.

Patsy D'Agostino, president, National Association of Retail Grocers, said experience of the nation's grocers was good under the food-stamp plan and that a similar plan as suggested by Secretary Anderson would have the full support of retail merchants. . . .

Spokesmen for grocery wholesalers pointed out that the department's present program for free school lunches is working out successfully because the food is both bought and sold locally when possible through established trade channels. If the same methods are employed in the proposed stamp program they would meet trade approval.

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FAO BODY REJECTS WORLD FOOD GROUP; EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FEARS ITS POWERS ON POLICY WOULD BE ENDED BY PROPOSED COUNCIL-Washington - The Executive Committee of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization in effect has rejected the World Food Council proposed here last winter by the FAO Preparatory Commission, it was learned today.

The executive group, composed of fifteen member nations of the forty-seven member FAO, met in Rome last month for its annual session. A summary report of the meeting, which now has been submitted to all member governments, including the United States, calls attention to its "disagreement" with the "effect" of the Preparatory Commission's proposals for a World Food Council.

The committee's principal objection appeared to be the likelihood that its responsibilities "in matters of major policy" would be "definitely" eliminated by the council.

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BRITISH TAX PARES USE OF U.S. TOBACCO-London - Hugh Dalton, Chancellor of the Exchequer, has thus far achieved his objective of reducing the consumption of American tobacco, according to the testimony of members of the National Organization of Tobacconists. . . .

According to an organization spokesman . . . the present monetary volume of sales represents . . . an actual decrease in consumption from pre-budget levels.

From New York Times, April 23 -

NAM HEAD OFFERS AID TO TRUMAN ON PRICES-Washington-Earl Bunting, president of the National Association of Manufacturers, tonight reaffirmed industry's pledge to aid President Truman's campaign to cut prices, but he said the Government "must do its part of the job if we hope to win this battle."

In a broadcast over the Mutual network, billed as "Industry's Answer to President Truman's Statement on Prices," Mr. Bunting said the Government must help put the brakes on prices by doing these things:

1. Removing the secrecy features of its farm price support program, so that "when it starts on a buying program the market must know how large this program is going to be so that an orderly adjustment can be made to take care of it."

2. Adopting controls over extension of credit by banks, as well as over the right of individuals to buy on the installment plan.

3. Eliminating "the uncertainty which today makes many business men hesitant to commit themselves to lower price levels."

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From New York Journal of Commerce, April 23 -

BOLSTER FARM AID, CONGRESS BESOUGHT-Washington-Edward A. O'Neal, American Farm Bureau president, said today "it would be folly to assume that we will not have burdensome surpluses (of farm produce) again that may wreck farm price."

Testifying before the House Agriculture Committee, O'Neal: (a) Urged a strong farm program of expanded consumption and adjusted production.

(b) Indorsed reciprocal trade principles and declared "agriculture more than ever needs an expanded volume of foreign trade to absorb its output."

(c) Criticizing centralized control of farm programs in Washington, urged transfer of larger authority to state extension services.

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From Wall Street Journal, April 23 -

FATS AND OILS: INDUSTRY, HOUSEWIVES STALL BUYING, CRACK RAW MATERIALS MARKET-Industrialists and housewives have teamed up in a buyers' strike, knocking down prices in the fats and oils market and laying the basis for cheaper products ranging from soap to salad oil.

Butter, competing in the edible oil market, dropped 2 cents a pound yesterday in New York chain stores. There was a similar drop Monday. The retail price is now 63 cents, the old OPA level.

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WORLD CONFERENCE FAILS TO MAKE WORKABLE PACT FOR MARKETING OF WHEAT-London-The International Wheat Conference will end its month long deliberations today without a workable agreement for the marketing of the world's wheat for the next few years.

Delegates who attended last night's closed meeting said the wording of an agreement had been adopted. One delegate who declined use of his name, declared, however, "it is so full of loopholes and reservations that its practical value will be nil."

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From Omaha (Nebr.) World Herald, Apr. 15 -

BELT HARVEST COST HALVED - Machines cut in half the cost of harvesting and loading sugar beets. That is the conclusion offered in the second annual report by the Department of Rural Economics at the University of Nebraska.

Studies of operating costs of beet harvesters and beet loaders were made on 92 farms in six counties.

The cost per ton of beets, using machines to harvest and load, was \$1.10. The cost for the same operation, by hand, was \$2.12.

The economists figured that you can harvest with a machine and load beets by hand for \$1.34 a ton, or you can harvest by hand and load with machinery for \$1.88 a ton.

The studies were made on farms where the yield averaged 14.3 tons an acre.

Costs include depreciation, repairs, lubricants, shelter, insurance, interest, taxes, power and operators' wages.

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From Boston (Mass.) Herald, Apr. 11 -

CITY FOLK INDIFFERENT TO HIGH FOOD COST? - Park Commissioner William P. Long said that only one-half of the city's garden plots had been applied for despite "the high cost of food."

"We were prepared to accommodate nearly 5,000 persons this year, realizing the high cost for food, but only 2100 applications have been received and processed," he said.

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From Kansas City Weekly Star, Apr. 16 -

CUTTING PORK COSTS - Editorial - The high price of protein supplements is making it difficult for farmers to do their usual good job of feeding, especially with poultry and with hogs. The recent heavy loss of spring pigs may partly have been caused by the severity of the weather at farrowing time but more likely was due to inadequate rations for the sow in prefarrowing days. While it is usual to feed corn heavily after a big crop such as we had last year, upsetting the ration by cutting down or eliminating protein to balance the carbohydrate intake is penny wise and pound foolish. Many pigs which were born too weak to survive the inclement weather probably would have been vigorous enough to have lived had they had proper prenatal nourishment.

What about the pigs that are left? Carl Ebling of Kansas State college says they should be started on a grain ration of shelled corn or kafir when they are three weeks old and after a week of this diet, can have corn, kafir, shorts and tankage in a self-feeder or a creep. After weaning, when the pigs go on full feed, the protein should be continued.

Even at present prices, such supplements are not too expensive when fattening hogs, in the opinion of L. A. Weaver of the University of Missouri.

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From Sacramento (Calif.) Bee, Apr. 11 -

SLAP AT COTTON BELT - Editorial - The San Joaquin Valley cotton belt, along with the South, will suffer a backhanded slap if the United States War Department proceeds with the buying of foreign grown cotton for use in Japan and Germany. Spokesmen for the National Cotton Council put it mildly in declaring the procedure is unfair to the taxpayers and the cotton industry of America.

Without their output, the production of urgently needed munitions containing cotton byproducts would have been reduced dangerously. They now deserve the chance to seek export markets without hindrance from the very governmental department they helped the most.

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From Charleston (W. Va.) Gazette, Apr. 16 -

PROGRESS - Editorial - It is gratifying to learn from the Soil Conservation Service that we have reduced the annual rate of damage to our farm lands by half since 1930. At the same time, it is sobering to learn that we are still losing 500,000 acres of top soil each year.

We have permitted erosion by wind and water to damage at least half of our usable soil, some 282,000,000 acres of crop and grazing land. Much of this can be made useful again, for production of either food or timber, but it is going to take a lot of time unless there is even more effort expended by the farm owners.

We now have 1,650 soil conservation districts in this country, run by the farmers with federal government assistance. Of the 6,000,000 farms in this country, close to 4,000,000 now belong to districts. Soil conservation experts plan irrigation, strip-cropping, cover cropping and restoration of eroded areas.

The battle is by no means won. There will have to be more cooperation among the farmers and other land owners. If this country is to remain great, the full productivity of its soil must be guaranteed for all time.

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From Philadelphia Bulletin, Apr. 18 -

FARM DEFENDERS - Editorial - Chairman Hope of the House Agriculture Committee is a Republican and the Secretary of Agriculture, Clinton P. Anderson, is a Democrat. On the same day they both came to the defense of the farm price support program, denying that it was responsible for high food prices.

Secretary Anderson says that farm prices are now 122 per cent of parity and Congress has only promised to support them at 90 per cent. Most foods have thus required no Government assistance to keep them high.

The Secretary admits that potatoes, dry milk and heavy turkeys have been kept from going too far down in price by the Government buying program. Otherwise the Government is not guilty.

But this bi-partisan readiness to do battle for the farmer is interesting. The Republican chairman of the House Committee could cut the Government's future commitments by suggesting an end to the price support program. He does not do it. No republican and no Democrat seems to favor economy at the expense of the farmers.

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From Terre Haute (Ind.) Star, Apr. 15 -

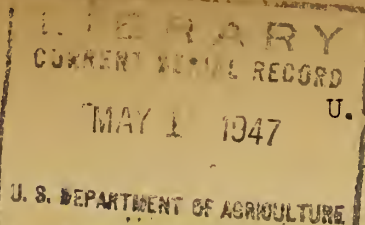
In all the talk of price deflation a great deal is said about a prospective slump in farm income. But in view of the parity figures it is difficult to see how farm prices can decline to punishing levels. Congress has enacted a law guaranteeing farm prices at 90 per cent of parity through 1948 and has made no move to repeal it. Under that act the government is obligated to support prices when they go lower than 90 per cent of parity.

Ninety per cent of the present price of wheat would be \$1.81 a bushel, corn \$1.32, oats 82 cents, rye \$1.48, barley \$1.28, hogs \$14.94, cattle \$11.16, eggs 38 cents, potatoes \$1.53, hay \$24.50 per ton, chickens 23 cents, wool 38 cents.

There would be few hardships in these prices if it came to the point in the next two years where there were surpluses in these crops and the government supported prices at the above levels. Of course, in a period of general deflation parity would come down, too, but not very rapidly in view of high taxes and wages.

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DAILY FARM NEWS DIGEST
(For April 29, 1947)



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Office of Information
Washington 25, D.C.

(The newspapers and magazines from which these agricultural items are taken are on file in Press Service, Room 414 A. Phone Gene Harrison at 6031.)

From New York Times, April 29 -

SOAP PRICES CUT 10% BY 3 MAJOR CHAINS; A. & P., GRAND UNION, SAFEWAY ACT -- QUEENS EXPERIMENT TO 'SCALE' REDUCTIONS - Three retail chains cut prices 10 per cent on soaps and soap products yesterday as housewives and merchants throughout the nation experimented with several plans for checkmating the rising cost of living.

The Atlantic and Pacific, Grand Union and Safeway companies marked down all soap stocks an average of 10 per cent without waiting for the new supplies on which soap manufacturers announced a 10 per cent price reduction last week.

While the "Newburyport Plan" of across-the-board price cuts of 10 per cent in retail stores gained adherents in scattered shopping centers, variations of it or substitute plans for price-cutting were pushed in other communities.

Two hundred and fifty merchants in the borough of Queens were working out details of the "Jackson Heights Plan," which they will present on Thursday as a rival to the "Newburyport Plan" in Massachusetts. The newer plan, which its sponsors maintain has a sounder economic base than the "Newburyport Plan," will scale price cuts according to the nature of the products and the amounts of the customary mark-ups. Food stores, for instance, will make smaller price reductions than specialty shops or furniture houses.

TALKS OPEN MAY 5 ON TRADE CHARTER; DATE IS ADVANCED IN GENEVA TO MEET DESIRE FOR CONCURRENT TARIFF NEGOTIATIONS - Geneva - The date for opening what is hoped will be the final round of discussion on the charter of the International Trade Organization has been advanced from May 15 to May 5.

This action conforms with the desire of the United States delegation to pursue charter discussions as far as possible simultaneously with the negotiation of the new trade agreements now in full swing at the Geneva trade conference.

HERBS USED AS SUBSTITUTE FOR TOBACCO IN BRITAIN - London - Looking for something to smoke? You take one ounce of powdered coltsfoot root, sprinkle in some rose leaves, lavender and clover flowers.

Britons by the thousands were turning to this outlandish mixture for the very good reason that "herb tobacco," scorned by most smokers until now, sells for as little as sixpence (10 cents) an ounce -- about one-seventh of the new higher price of pipe tobacco resulting from a 50 per cent increase in the tobacco import tax.

MILK PRICE CUT OPPOSED; JERSEY PRODUCERS FILE AN APPEAL AGAINST REDUCTION ORDER * Trenton - New Jersey milk producers appealed today from a proposed price drop for milk of a cent a quart. Their action would defer the effective date of the price change beyond Thursday, unless the State Milk Control Board dismisses their action sooner.

Lewis Dolan, counsel for the United Milk Producers, posed the question to the board: "Are farmers to be the only persons to suffer in reducing prices?"

From New York Times, April 29 -

HAHN SAYS PRICES MUST COME DOWN - Atlantic City - Lew Hahn, New York City, president, National Retail Dry Goods Association, said today American business men are facing the fact that prices will have to come down despite the views of many manufacturers, whose sincerity cannot be doubted, that prices cannot be lowered because of the current cost of production.

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From New York Wall Street Journal, April 29 -

FOOD PRICES COULD DIVE IF UNEMPLOYMENT MOUNTED SHARPLY - A little-publicized factor tied to today's stratospheric food costs is the huge amount of edibles now being eaten. Full employment means maximum food demand. Americans now gobble a per-capita average of 150 pounds of meat a year. The 1935-39 average was 126 pounds. Eggs are eaten at the rate of 400 per person a year. The pre-war average was 298.

And meat and eggs are just random examples. Compared with the pre-war average, per-capita consumption of cheese is up 25%, fluid milk and cream 25%, canned vegetables 46%, breakfast foods 35%. People are eating 26% more chickens, nearly 70% more turkeys. And guzzling of canned fruit juices is 271% above the pre-war rate.

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LAMB CHOPS GROW SCARCER AS LABOR COSTS DRIVE SHEEP RANCHERS OUT OF BUSINESS - Many sheep growers have given up. Others expect to. Operating costs of one of the top Montana sheep ranches last year came to \$12.52 a head. Expenses of the same ranch in 1939 were \$4.64 a head. This outfit of only \$8,000 in 1946. And much of this was money received from Liquidation of flocks. Excluding receipts from flock liquidation, the ranch's losses on wool amounted to eight cents for every pound produced.

The nation's sheep flock, cut almost in half in the past five years, is headed for further shrinkage, ranchers say. It's already the skimpiest since Civil War days.

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PRICES WEAKEN OVER A BROAD FRONT AS SPRING COMES IN - The Bureau of Labor Statistics' big wholesale price index has slipped three consecutive weeks. Its farm product component has sagged 5% in that time.

Prices of building materials as a group still hold firm. But lumber, the bellwether, is beginning to crack. And it may lead a long string of construction materials down hill. Reason: The expected spring house-building spree isn't "spreeing."

"Futures" markets point persistently to a steep slide ahead. Wheat and corn are now both promised for delivery in December at prices some 17% below the May delivery level. And December-delivery cotton sells 20% below the May-delivery level.

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From St. Louis (Mo.) Globe-Democrat, Apr. 22 -

GROCCERS' HEAD RAPS TRUMAN'S PRICE PLEA - Price cuts demanded by President Truman were assailed last night by William Richardson, president of the Individual Retail Grocers and Meat Dealers Association of St. Louis at an association board meeting.

"How can President Truman explain his price cut appeal," Richardson demanded, "with \$160,000,000 in the budget for subsidies to farmers to keep food subsidies to farmers to keep food prices up?"

His attack was supported by J. W. Stevens, association field secretary, who declared, "If there is any way to cut prices, we'll do it, but with the highest overhead in history confronting us, President Truman will have to show us how."

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From Memphis (Tenn.) Commercial Appeal, Apr. 20 -

COTTON MEN REQUEST DEADLINE EXTENSION; CONTEND IT'S NOT POSSIBLE TO CLEAR SHIPMENTS FROM PORTS BY JUNE 30 - Extension of the June 30 deadline on cotton export shipments under the subsidy program was urged yesterday by the members of the Southern Cotton Shippers Association in annual convention.

Setting out that it is physically impossible to load and clear the shipments from the ports within the time required, the association recommended to its parent organization, the American Cotton Shippers Association, that immediate action be sought from the Commodity Credit Corporation on an extension.

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From Hartford (Conn.) Times, Apr. 19 -

FARMERS SENSE PRICE CUT - Editorial - Since farmers sell more than they buy -- that's how they make a profit -- any general price lowering is bad news to them.

They see signs of a general price recession definitely approaching. They are alarmed.

President Truman's pleading for it did not disturb them particularly. But the tell-tale signs of accumulating supplies of staple commodities and significant evidences of shrinking demand are not to be lightly dismissed.

That the growers of cotton, corn, wheat, cattle and hogs expect a price recession to gain momentum is most clearly evident from their appeal to the farm bloc in the Senate and House to stand guard against cuts in the price-supporting subsidies.

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From Philadelphia (Pa.) Bulletin, Apr. 23 -

FOOD FOR ALL - Editorial - Worries over what may happen to farm prices after 1948, when the present price support program ends, brought from Secretary of Agriculture Anderson suggestions of a food-for-all plan. It is the Secretary's idea that food should be assured everyone in the United States by the Government, even if the Government has to pay for it.

Secretary Anderson takes his cue from the existing school lunch program, by which the Federal Government helps thousands of children to get enough to eat.

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From Greenville (S.C.) News, Apr. 21 -

FARM AID AND PRICES - Editorial - On Monday of last week Secretary of Agriculture Clinton P. Anderson was quoted as saying in a speech at Richmond that rising prices were increasing the government's financial burden under the price-support program.

The next day he said in Washington that current price-support activities are minor and are exerting almost no effect on food prices.

These statements are not contradictory, as they may seem to be at first glance, because the Secretary was referring to two separate phases of the food price situation.

The government's price-support program is based on "parity" farm prices which in turn are based on the cost of living on the farm in relation to the cost of consumer goods generally. When parity prices go up, the government's financial burden increases because it is obligated to support farm prices at higher levels.

The government's financial burden will become heavier if and when the prices of farm products in the program break and go lower than parity prices. It is the expectation that this will happen which apparently is worrying Secretary Anderson and should be causing the farmers some concern as well. In all probability Congress will be unwilling to appropriate huge sums of money to support prices excessively above true economic values.

From Atlanta (Ga.) Journal, Apr. 21 -

FAIR PLAY FOR MARGARINE - Editorial - The fight is on again in Congress to repeal the discriminatory taxes on margarine. Sen. Olin D. Johnston and Rep. Mendel Rivers, both of South Carolina, have introduced companion bills for this purpose, and committee hearings soon will begin. Year after year public interest in the issue has widened until it is now a matter of keen concern to farmers, processors and consumers throughout the United States.

Margarine is made principally from the oil of cottonseed, soybeans and peanuts and is enriched with vitamins. It is produced under the most sanitary conditions and conforms to all requirements of the pure food laws. Its coloring substance is no different from that added to butter in seasons when dairy herds lack green pasturage. It is as natural a food product as butter and altogether as wholesome, according to the testimony of scientists and dietetic authorities.

From Indianapolis (Ind.) Star, Apr. 23 -

FERTILIZER SHORTAGE MAY CURTAIL CROPS - The Indiana farms and truck marketers need 15 to 25 per cent more fertilizer than they will get this year. Some places the supply will be 40 per cent short of meeting demand.

While it's very likely that this will be a record production year for fertilizer, it still won't come up to needs. For one thing, the farmers want to put more soil-building reinforcements into play after the drain of war years. Also the East and South are using more and more. They have been greater users in the past than many parts of the Midwest, anyway.

Actually, fertilizers -- with more strength taken into consideration -- are about one-third as costly as they were in the 1920s.

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DAILY FARM NEWS DIGEST
(For April 25, 1947)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Office of Information
Washington 25, D.C.

(The newspapers and magazines from which these agricultural items are taken are on file in Press Service, Room 414A. Phone Gene Harrison at 6031.)

From New York Times, April 25 -

TRUMAN INDICATES HE BARS USING FORCE TO CUT PRICES: RESTS ON PLEADING, HOLDING IT IS FUNERAL OF SELLERS IF THEY ASK TOO MUCH AND LOSE—Washington—President Truman made it clear today that he planned no stronger action calculated to lower prices and indicated that if manufacturers and businessmen insisted on pricing their products out of the market it would be their own funeral.

The President already had turned thumbs down on a proposal of his former Price Administrator, Chester Bowles, that he appoint a committee of businessmen to negotiate voluntary price cuts throughout industry, working with the Commerce Department or other Federal agency. Mr. Truman said he saw nothing to be gained by adopting the proposal.

WIDE RANGE SLASH IN PRICES PRESSED: MERCHANTS IN MANY AREAS TRY 'NEWBURYPORT PLAN'—NO CUTS ARE SEEN AT SOURCES—Merchants in scattered cities climbed yesterday aboard the band wagon of the "Newburyport Plan" for an across the board cut of 10 percent in prices, but there was little if any sign of immediate price cuts at sources of production.

REP. HOPE URGES INTEGRATION OF FARM PROGRAM: ASSERTS RECENT POLICIES SOMETIMES DISAGREE—Chicago—Representative Clifford R. Hope, Republican, of Kansas, chairman of the House Committee on Agriculture, called tonight for a national policy with respect to agriculture. He urged more cooperation between farmers and business men and emphasized the need for a free economy that would eliminate monopolies in business, labor and agriculture.

In urging formation of a national agricultural policy, Mr. Hope said such a policy was necessary to relieve the farmer of the various uncoordinated and in many instances, contradictory programs that have been adopted in recent years.

BIG DEALERS TO CUT MILK CENT A QUART: ANDERSON ORDERED SLASH—Despite a threat by dairy farmers serving this area that they may strike if the price of milk drops still further, major milk dealers here announced a 1 cent a quart reduction yesterday.

This retail price cut, to take effect Thursday, is predicted at a decrease of 44 cents a hundred pounds in the farm price of May milk.

Such a decrease was ordered two weeks ago by Secretary of Agriculture Clinton P. Anderson.

From New York Times, April 25 -

COMMODITY PRICES OFF BY 0.6% IN WEEK: INCREASE IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS BRINGS DROP IN THE PRIMARY MARKET-Washington-Continuing declines for agricultural commodities caused a decrease of 0.6 percent in average primary market prices during the week ended April 19, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

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EUROPE ASKS U.S. FOR EXTRA WHEAT-Washington-Grain importing nations of Western Europe are appealing to the United States, Canada and Australia for extra shipments of wheat to avert a bread crisis before the new crops of the Northern Hemisphere are harvested, it was revealed today.

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From Wall Street Journal, April 25 -

PROSPERING FARMERS WON'T GET A LONG RANGE FARM PROGRAM THIS YEAR--Present talks won't jell. Neither Republicans nor the Democrats want to tackle this political firecracker before the '48 elections. Anderson rambles on about "greater consumption for higher production," but won't be tied to a "plan." The G. O. P. favors scrapping the AAA crop curtailment program, largely ignored though still on the law books, but will delay by "studying" new schemes.

One would give the Agriculture Secretary power to make price supports rather flexible--high on crops in strong demand, low on those in overabundance. The war-born price supports are set at 90% of parity, regardless of consumer needs.

With most farm prices still floating far above support levels, the politics figure farmers can coast along without trouble until after elections.

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From N. Y. Journal of Commerce, April 25 -

FARM SUBSIDIES HALT SURPLUS USE-Rye-Large scale production of industrial alcohol from farm surpluses will create a vast number of jobs and raise the level of prosperity not only in the U.S. but the world, Dr. William J. Hale, technical consultant for Dow Chemical Co., predicted here today.

Addressing the Agricultural Insecticide and Fungicide Assn., at its semi-annual meeting, Dr. Hale emphasized that alcohol is but one of countless possibilities in the field, and predicted that through industrial alcohol alone the U. S. can use one fourth of its farmland for food and three fourths can be devoted to chemical output, resulting in millions of new jobs.

Dr. Hale maintained that continuing farm product support prices beyond next year would "delay the destined chemical utilization of farm products; force us to dump produce abroad at a financial loss and cause economic discord in other countries."

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From Los Angeles (Calif.) Times, Apr. 18 -

GROCERY CHIEF ADVISES LOWER PRICES ON FOOD - "You can't just sit on your inventory."

Nathan Cummings, president of Consolidated Grocers Corp., made this clear yesterday when telling representatives of the food industry they'd better think in terms of lower prices.

"If anyone has items in his cellar that cost him \$1 and he's keeping them until he can get \$1.10 instead of getting rid of them at 90 cents he's going to get hurt," Cummings said in advocating the taking of present inventory losses. "Food is a commodity. You have to follow the market."

Urging cuts in consumer prices, Cummings said increased efficiency and reduced profit margins are needed to reach that end.

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From Salt Lake City (Utah.) Tribune, Apr. 13 -

OFFICIAL SAYS PRICE HIKES HURT FARMER - A relatively small proportion of food price rises since decontrol has reflected itself in the farmer's pocketbook and generally has been as detrimental to him as to the average consumer, according to Frank G. Shelley, executive secretary, Utah State Farm Bureau federation.

This is the contention upon which Mr. Shelly Saturday predicated a prepared statement disputing the contention that "farmers are getting rich from skyrocketing food prices."

Market manipulations by the "middleman or middlemen" largely have been responsible for the upward price trend, he said.

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From Burlington (Vt.) Free Press, Apr. 18 -

CO-OPS FIGHTING TO KEEP APRIL MILK PRICE LEVEL FOR MAY-JUNE - Although dairymen received a serious set-back last week when the secretary of agriculture announced that May and June Class 1 prices would drop 44 cents per hundredweight to \$4.33 their co-operatives were not taking it lying down.

Virtually all of them immediately dispatched a joint telegram to the secretary, urgently requesting him to reconsider his suspension order and hold the May and June price at the April level of \$4.77 per hundredweight.

They could make a good case for their request. "Milk production costs have increased sharply from a year ago," the telegram stated.

Relief from rising costs, it declared, now appears more dubious than it did when the original petition, requesting that the price be held for May and June, was filed on March 12. It also pointed out that the reduction in price for May and June would result in returns to producers substantially lower than last year, in spite of sharp increases in production costs.

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From Atlanta Journal, Apr. 18 -

SHIPPING AT REA - Editorial - One of the numerous matters in which Congress cannot afford to practice false economy is rural electrification. In our opinion, there should be appropriated funds for every soundly drawn REA loan application that may be presented. We have seen how REA is revitalizing rural Georgia, and we know how earnest is the desire for further extension of the service. There is now pending in REA headquarters at Washington applications for \$18,700,000 of loans for co-operatives in Georgia. Only Iowa and Missouri rank ahead of this state in desire for new construction. Only 42 percent of our farms have electric service, and we rank 32nd among the states.

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From Bluefield (W.Va.) Telegraph, Apr. 13 -

CAUSES FOR HIGH FOOD PRICES - Editorial - The action of the president to create a sympathetic response on the part of producers and dealers looking to a reduction in retail prices is taken by most observers to mean a mere political gesture. All of those who study matters relating to price levels know that the laws of supply and demand usually work toward price fixing and this law can only be defeated by being tampered with and the adoption by producers, processors and monopolies of the old trust technique.

It is no doubt the truth that the great increase of prices in the past two years on articles of food are due to the fact that the government fixes the prices. The policy of the government continues to be one of supporting the present fantastically inflated prices of major farm products. The effect and the government idea back of it, is to encourage large surpluses for export to the foreign countries to meet the demand for food there. This policy contributes largely to prices on food being high here at home.

From Little Rock (Ark.) Gazette, Apr. 19 -

TAMPERING WITH PRICES CAN BE DANGEROUS - Editorial - Prices are tricky. If enough people become convinced that prices are going lower, nothing can induce customers to buy. Sure enough, prices do go down as merchants endeavor to bolster their falling sales. This convinces people that prices are going still lower, and the first thing everybody knows the country is in the middle of a first-class depression -- or deflation as it probably will be called next time.

Dr. C. T. Murchison, president of the Cotton Textile Institute, called attention to this danger when he declared that "The utter recklessness of present assaults on the price structure could easily lead to disastrous consequences."

From Indianapolis (Ind.) Star, Apr. 21 -

NO PORK CHOP RELIEF; SPRING PIGS KILLED - Pork chops will continue to be expensive next fall. Agricultural forecasters have looked over the spring pig crop and found that March was too cold. Many of the spring-born pigs died.

This continued high price of pork is based on the assumption there will not be a general decline in farm prices this year. But such a decline would not come as a surprise to the farmer organizations. They know the time is here or near when the bottom will drop out of the wartime inflation in farm prices.

From Greensboro (N.C.) News, Apr. 11 -

REQUIRES STATESMANSHIP TOO - Editorial - Tobacco growers are following a sound, intelligent course in setting up their own agency to work for foreign markets and expansion of an export trade which is essential for the absorption of their crop.

They are fortunate too in securing J. B. Hutson who not only knows tobacco and the problems which the growers face but who also has an international outlook and acquaintance as a consequence of his service as United States secretary to the United Nations.

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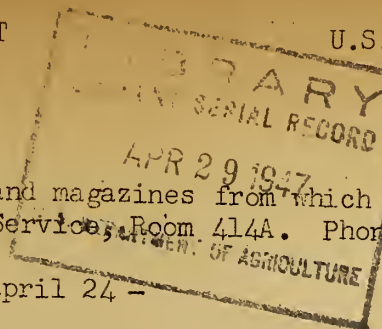
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From New York Times, April 23 -

FOOD-BUYING PLAN OF ANDERSON URGED; INDUSTRY LEADERS HOLD MORE PURCHASING POWER IN LIEU OF LESS OUTPUT RIGHT APPROACH - Secretary of Agriculture Clinton P. Anderson's proposed plan to increase food buying power rather than cut food production was greeted as a more realistic approach to the surplus problem by leaders of the food industry yesterday. They warned, however, success of the program and the degree of support it will receive from the food industry will depend on how it is implemented.

Success of the food-stamp plan in the late Thirties, they pointed out, was largely due to the fact that the Government kept it out of bureaucratic hands and allowed the food to pass to the consumer through normal distribution channels.

By the same token, they said, the Government's first efforts in this field following collapse of farm prices after 1929 resulted in complete market chaos. Government buying of farm commodities at that time and its dumping of them indiscriminately on the market disrupted normal trade channels, they noted, and was generally unsuccessful in fulfilling its aims.

Patsy D'Agostino, president, National Association of Retail Grocers, said experience of the nation's grocers was good under the food-stamp plan and that a similar plan as suggested by Secretary Anderson would have the full support of retail merchants. . . .

Spokesmen for grocery wholesalers pointed out that the department's present program for free school lunches is working out successfully because the food is both bought and sold locally when possible through established trade channels. If the same methods are employed in the proposed stamp program they would meet trade approval.

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FAO BODY REJECTS WORLD FOOD GROUP; EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FEARS ITS POWERS ON POLICY WOULD BE ENDED BY PROPOSED COUNCIL-Washington - The Executive Committee of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization in effect has rejected the World Food Council proposed here last winter by the FAO Preparatory Commission, it was learned today.

The executive group, composed of fifteen member nations of the forty-seven member FAO, met in Rome last month for its annual session. A summary report of the meeting, which now has been submitted to all member governments, including the United States, calls attention to its "disagreement" with the "effect" of the Preparatory Commission's proposals for a World Food Council.

The committee's principal objection appeared to be the likelihood that its responsibilities "in matters of major policy" would be "definitely" eliminated by the council.

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BRITISH TAX PARES USE OF U.S. TOBACCO-London - Hugh Dalton, Chancellor of the Exchequer, has thus far achieved his objective of reducing the consumption of American tobacco, according to the testimony of members of the National Organization of Tobacconists. . . .

According to an organization spokesman . . . the present monetary volume of sales represents . . . an actual decrease in consumption from pre-budget levels.

From New York Times, April 23 -

NAM MEAD OFFERS AID TO TRUMAN ON PRICES-Washington-Earl Bunting, president of the National Association of Manufacturers, tonight reaffirmed industry's pledge to aid President Truman's campaign to cut prices, but he said the Government "must do its part of the job if we hope to win this battle."

In a broadcast over the Mutual network, billed as "Industry's Answer to President Truman's Statement on Prices," Mr. Bunting said the Government must help put the brakes on prices by doing these things:

1. Removing the secrecy features of its farm price support program, so that "when it starts on a buying program the market must know how large this program is going to be so that an orderly adjustment can be made to take care of it."

2. Adopting controls over extension of credit by banks, as well as over the right of individuals to buy on the installment plan.

3. Eliminating "the uncertainty which today makes many business men hesitant to commit themselves to lower price levels."

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From New York Journal of Commerce, April 23 -

BOLSTER FARM AID, CONGRESS BESOUGHT-Washington-Edward A. O'Neal, American Farm Bureau president, said today "it would be folly to assume that we will not have burdensome surpluses (of farm produce) again that may wreck farm price."

Testifying before the House Agriculture Committee, O'Neal: (a) Urged a strong farm program of expanded consumption and adjusted production.

(b) Indorsed reciprocal trade principles and declared "agriculture more than ever needs an expanded volume of foreign trade to absorb its output."

(c) Criticizing centralized control of farm programs in Washington, urged transfer of larger authority to state extension services.

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From Wall Street Journal, April 23 -

FATS AND OILS: INDUSTRY, HOUSEWIVES STALL BUYING, CRACK RAW MATERIALS MARKET-Industrialists and housewives have teamed up in a buyers' strike, knocking down prices in the fats and oils market and laying the basis for cheaper products ranging from soap to salad oil.

Butter, competing in the edible oil market, dropped 2 cents a pound yesterday in New York chain stores. There was a similar drop Monday. The retail price is now 63 cents, the old OPA level.

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WORLD CONFERENCE FAILS TO MAKE WORKABLE FACT FOR MARKETING OF WHEAT-London-The International Wheat Conference will end its month long deliberations today without a workable agreement for the marketing of the world's wheat for the next few years.

Delegates who attended last night's closed meeting said the wording of an agreement had been adopted. One delegate who declined use of his name, declared, however, "it is so full of loopholes and reservations that its practical value will be nil."

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From Omaha (Nebr.) World Herald, Apr. 15 -

BELT HARVEST COST HALVED - Machines cut in half the cost of harvesting and loading sugar beets. That is the conclusion offered in the second annual report by the Department of Rural Economics at the University of Nebraska.

Studies of operating costs of beet harvesters and beet loaders were made on 92 farms in six counties.

The cost per ton of beets, using machines to harvest and load, was \$1.10. The cost for the same operation, by hand, was \$2.12.

The economists figured that you can harvest with a machine and load beets by hand for \$1.34 a ton, or you can harvest by hand and load with machinery for \$1.88 a ton.

The studies were made on farms where the yield averaged 14.3 tons an acre.

Costs include depreciation, repairs, lubricants, shelter, insurance, interest, taxes, power and operators' wages.

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From Boston (Mass.) Herald, Apr. 11 -

CITY FOLK INDIFFERENT TO HIGH FOOD COST? - Park Commissioner William P. Long said that only one-half of the city's garden plots had been applied for despite "the high cost of food."

"We were prepared to accommodate nearly 5,000 persons this year, realizing the high cost for food, but only 2100 applications have been received and processed," he said.

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From Kansas City Weekly Star, Apr. 16 -

CUTTING PORK COSTS - Editorial - The high price of protein supplements is making it difficult for farmers to do their usual good job of feeding, especially with poultry and with hogs. The recent heavy loss of spring pigs may partly have been caused by the severity of the weather at farrowing time but more likely was due to inadequate rations for the sow in prefarrowing days. While it is usual to feed corn heavily after a big crop such as we had last year, upsetting the ration by cutting down or eliminating protein to balance the carbohydrate intake is penny wise and pound foolish. Many pigs which were born too weak to survive the inclement weather probably would have been vigorous enough to have lived had they had proper prenatal nourishment.

What about the pigs that are left? Carl Elling of Kansas State college says they should be started on a grain ration of shelled corn or kafir when they are three weeks old and after a week of this diet, can have corn, kafir, shorts and tankage in a self-feeder or a creep. After weaning when the pigs go on full feed, the protein should be continued.

Even at present prices, such supplements are not too expensive when fattening hogs, in the opinion of L. A. Weaver of the University of Missouri.

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From Sacramento (Calif.) Bee, Apr. 11 -

SLAP AT COTTON BELT - Editorial - The San Joaquin Valley cotton belt, along with the South, will suffer a backhanded slap if the United States War Department proceeds with the buying of foreign grown cotton for use in Japan and Germany. Spokesmen for the National Cotton Council put it mildly in declaring the procedure is unfair to the taxpayers and the cotton industry of America.

Without their output, the production of urgently needed munitions containing cotton byproducts would have been reduced dangerously. They now deserve the chance to seek export markets without hindrance from the very governmental department they helped the most.

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From Charleston (W. Va.) Gazette, Apr. 16 -

PROGRESS - Editorial - It is gratifying to learn from the Soil Conservation Service that we have reduced the annual rate of damage to our farm lands by half since 1930. At the same time, it is sobering to learn that we are still losing 500,000 acres of top soil each year.

We have permitted erosion by wind and water to damage at least half of our usable soil, some 282,000,000 acres of crop and grazing land. Much of this can be made useful again, for production of either food or timber, but it is going to take a lot of time unless there is even more effort expended by the farm owners.

We now have 1,650 soil conservation districts in this country, run by the farmers with federal government assistance. Of the 6,000,000 farms in this country, close to 4,000,000 now belong to districts. Soil conservation experts plan irrigation, strip-cropping, cover cropping and restoration of eroded areas.

The battle is by no means won. There will have to be more cooperation among the farmers and other land owners. If this country is to remain great, the full productivity of its soil must be guaranteed for all time.

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From Philadelphia Bulletin, Apr. 18 -

FARM DEFENDERS - Editorial - Chairman Hope of the House Agriculture Committee is a Republican and the Secretary of Agriculture, Clinton P. Anderson, is a Democrat. On the same day they both came to the defense of the farm price support program, denying that it was responsible for high food prices.

Secretary Anderson says that farm prices are now 122 per cent of parity and Congress has only promised to support them at 90 per cent. Most foods have thus required no Government assistance to keep them high.

The Secretary admits that potatoes, dry milk and heavy turkeys have been kept from going too far down in price by the Government buying program. Otherwise the Government is not guilty.

But this bi-partisan readiness to do battle for the farmer is interesting. The Republican chairman of the House Committee could cut the Government's future commitments by suggesting an end to the price support program. He does not do it. No republican and no Democrat seems to favor economy at the expense of the farmers.

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From Terre Haute (Ind.) Star, Apr. 15 -

In all the talk of price deflation a great deal is said about a prospective slump in farm income. But in view of the parity figures it is difficult to see how farm prices can decline to punishing levels. Congress has enacted a law guaranteeing farm prices at 90 per cent of parity through 1948 and has made no move to repeal it. Under that act the government is obligated to support prices when they go lower than 90 per cent of parity.

Ninety per cent of the present price of wheat would be \$1.81 a bushel, corn \$1.32, oats 82 cents, rye \$1.48, barley \$1.28, hogs \$14.94, cattle \$11.16, eggs 38 cents, potatoes \$1.53, hay \$24.50 per ton, chickens 23 cents, wool 38 cents.

There would be few hardships in these prices if it came to the point in the next two years where there were surpluses in these crops and the government supported prices at the above levels. Of course, in a period of general deflation parity would come down, too, but not very rapidly in view of high taxes and wages.

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DAILY FARM NEWS DIGEST
(For April 25, 1947)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Office of Information
Washington 25, D.C.

(The newspapers and magazines from which these agricultural items are taken are on file in Press Service, Room 414A. Phone Gene Harrison at 6031.)

From New York Times, April 25

TRUMAN INDICATES HE BARS USING FORCE TO CUT PRICES: RESTS ON PLEADING, HOLDING IT IS FUNERAL OF SELLERS IF THEY ASK TOO MUCH AND LOSE—Washington—President Truman made it clear today that he planned no stronger action calculated to lower prices and indicated that if manufacturers and businessmen insisted on pricing their products out of the market it would be their own funeral.

The President already had turned thumbs down on a proposal of his former Price Administrator, Chester Bowles, that he appoint a committee of businessmen to negotiate voluntary price cuts throughout industry, working with the Commerce Department or other Federal agency. Mr. Truman said he saw nothing to be gained by adopting the proposal.

WIDE RANGE SLASH IN PRICES PRESSED: MERCHANTS IN MANY AREAS TRY 'NEWBURYPORT PLAN'—NO CUTS ARE SEEN AT SOURCES—Merchants in scattered cities climbed yesterday aboard the band wagon of the "Newburyport Plan" for an across the board cut of 10 percent in prices, but there was little if any sign of immediate price cuts at sources of production.

REP. HOPE URGES INTEGRATION OF FARM PROGRAM: ASSERTS RECENT POLICIES SOMETIMES DISAGREE—Chicago—Representative Clifford R. Hope, Republican, of Kansas, chairman of the House Committee on Agriculture, called tonight for a national policy with respect to agriculture. He urged more cooperation between farmers and business men and emphasized the need for a free economy that would eliminate monopolies in business, labor and agriculture.

In urging formation of a national agricultural policy, Mr. Hope said such a policy was necessary to relieve the farmer of the various uncoordinated and in many instances, contradictory programs that have been adopted in recent years.

BIG DEALERS TO CUT MILK CENT A QUART: ANDERSON ORDERED SLASH—Despite a threat by dairy farmers serving this area that they may strike if the price of milk drops still further, major milk dealers here announced a 1 cent a quart reduction yesterday.

This retail price cut, to take effect Thursday, is predicted at a decrease of 44 cents a hundred pounds in the farm price of May milk.

Such a decrease was ordered two weeks ago by Secretary of Agriculture Clinton P. Anderson.

From New York Times, April 25 -

COMMODITY PRICES OFF BY 0.6% IN WEEK: INCREASE IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS BRINGS DROP IN THE PRIMARY MARKET-Washington-Continuing declines for agricultural commodities caused a decrease of 0.6 percent in average primary market prices during the week ended April 19, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

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EUROPE ASKS U.S. FOR EXTRA WHEAT-Washington-Grain importing nations of Western Europe are appealing to the United States, Canada and Australia for extra shipments of wheat to avert a bread crisis before the new crops of the Northern Hemisphere are harvested, it was revealed today.

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From Wall Street Journal, April 25 -

PROSPERING FARMERS WON'T GET A LONG RANGE FARM PROGRAM THIS YEAR-Present talks won't jell. Neither Republicans nor the Democrats want to tackle this political firecracker before the '48 elections. Anderson rambles on about "greater consumption for higher production," but won't be tied to a "plan." The G. O. P. favors scrapping the AAA crop curtailment program, largely ignored though still on the law books, but will delay by "studying" new schemes.

One would give the Agriculture Secretary power to make price supports rather flexible—high on crops in strong demand, low on those in overabundance. The war-born price supports are set at 90% of parity, regardless of consumer needs.

With most farm prices still floating far above support levels, the politics figure farmers can coast along without trouble until after elections.

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From N. Y. Journal of Commerce, April 25 -

FARM SUBSIDIES HALT SURPLUS USE-Rye-Large scale production of industrial alcohol from farm surpluses will create a vast number of jobs and raise the level of prosperity not only in the U.S. but the world, Dr. William J. Hale, technical consultant for Dow Chemical Co., predicted here today.

Addressing the Agricultural Insecticide and Fungicide Assn., at its semi-annual meeting, Dr. Hale emphasized that alcohol is but one of countless possibilities in the field, and predicted that through industrial alcohol alone the U. S. can use one fourth of its farmland for food and three fourths can be devoted to chemical output, resulting in millions of new jobs.

Dr. Hale maintained that continuing farm product support prices beyond next year would "delay the destined chemical utilization of farm products; force us to dump produce abroad at a financial loss and cause economic discord in other countries."

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From Los Angeles (Calif.) Times, Apr. 18 -

GROCERY CHIEF ADVISES LOWER PRICES ON FOOD - "You can't just sit on your inventory."

Nathan Cummings, president of Consolidated Grocers Corp., made this clear yesterday when telling representatives of the food industry they'd better think in terms of lower prices.

"If anyone has items in his cellar that cost him \$1 and he's keeping them until he can get \$1.10 instead of getting rid of them at 90 cents he's going to get hurt," Cummings said in advocating the taking of present inventory losses. "Food is a commodity. You have to follow the market."

Urging cuts in consumer prices, Cummings said increased efficiency and reduced profit margins are needed to reach that end.

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From Salt Lake City (Utah.) Tribune, Apr. 13 -

OFFICIAL SAYS PRICE HIKES HURT FARMER - A relatively small proportion of food price rises since decontrol has reflected itself in the farmer's pocketbook and generally has been as detrimental to him as to the average consumer, according to Frank G. Shelley, executive secretary, Utah State Farm Bureau federation.

This is the contention upon which Mr. Shelly Saturday predicated a prepared statement disputing the contention that "farmers are getting rich from skyrocketing food prices."

Market manipulations by the "middleman or middlemen" largely have been responsible for the upward price trend, he said.

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From Burlington (Vt.) Free Press, Apr. 18 -

CO-OPS FIGHTING TO KEEP APRIL MILK PRICE LEVEL FOR MAY-JUNE - Although dairymen received a serious set-back last week when the secretary of agriculture announced that May and June Class 1 prices would drop 44 cents per hundredweight to \$4.33 their co-operatives were not taking it lying down.

Virtually all of them immediately dispatched a joint telegram to the secretary, urgently requesting him to reconsider his suspension order and hold the May and June price at the April level of \$4.77 per hundredweight.

They could make a good case for their request. "Milk production costs have increased sharply from a year ago," the telegram stated.

Relief from rising costs, it declared, now appears more dubious than it did when the original petition, requesting that the price be held for May and June, was filed on March 12. It also pointed out that the reduction in price for May and June would result in returns to producers substantially lower than last year, in spite of sharp increases in production costs.

From Atlanta Journal, Apr. 18 -

SHIPING AT REA - Editorial - One of the numerous matters in which Congress cannot afford to practice false economy is rural electrification. In our opinion, there should be appropriated funds for every soundly drawn REA loan application that may be presented. We have seen how REA is revitalizing rural Georgia, and we know how earnest is the desire for further extension of the service. There is now pending in REA headquarters at Washington applications for \$18,700,000 of loans for co-operatives in Georgia. Only Iowa and Missouri rank ahead of this state in desire for new construction. Only 42 percent of our farms have electric service, and we rank 32nd among the states.

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From Bluefield (W.Va.) Telegraph, Apr. 13 -

CAUSES FOR HIGH FOOD PRICES - Editorial - The action of the president to create a sympathetic response on the part of producers and dealers looking to a reduction in retail prices is taken by most observers to mean a mere political gesture. All of those who study matters relating to price levels know that the laws of supply and demand usually work toward price fixing and this law can only be defeated by being tampered with and the adoption by producers, processors and monopolies of the old trust technique.

It is no doubt the truth that the great increase of prices in the past two years on articles of food are due to the fact that the government fixes the prices. The policy of the government continues to be one of supporting the present fantastically inflated prices of major farm products. The effect and the government idea back of it, is to encourage large surpluses for export to the foreign countries to meet the demand for food there. This policy contributes largely to prices on food being high here at home.

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From Little Rock (Ark.) Gazette, Apr. 19 -

TAMPERING WITH PRICES CAN BE DANGEROUS - Editorial - Prices are tricky. If enough people become convinced that prices are going lower, nothing can induce customers to buy. Sure enough, prices do go down as merchants endeavor to bolster their falling sales. This convinces people that prices are going still lower, and the first thing everybody knows the country is in the middle of a first-class depression -- or deflation as it probably will be called next time.

Dr. C. T. Murchison, president of the Cotton Textile Institute, called attention to this danger when he declared that "The utter recklessness of present assaults on the price structure could easily lead to disastrous consequences."

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From Indianapolis (Ind.) Star, Apr. 21 -

NO PORK CHOP RELIEF; SPRING PIGS KILLED - Pork chops will continue to be expensive next fall. Agricultural forecasters have looked over the spring pig crop and found that March was too cold. Many of the spring-born pigs died.

This continued high price of pork is based on the assumption there will not be a general decline in farm prices this year. But such a decline would not come as a surprise to the farmer organizations. They know the time is here or near when the bottom will drop out of the wartime inflation in farm prices.

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From Greensboro (N.C.) News, Apr. 11 -

REQUIRES STATESMANSHIP TOO - Editorial - Tobacco growers are following a sound, intelligent course in setting up their own agency to work for foreign markets and expansion of an export trade which is essential for the absorption of their crop.

They are fortunate too in securing J. B. Hutson who not only knows tobacco and the problems which the growers face but who also has an international outlook and acquaintance as a consequence of his service as United States secretary to the United Nations.

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DAILY FARM NEWS DIGEST
(For April 29, 1947)

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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Office of Information
Washington 25, D.C.

(The newspapers and magazines from which these agricultural items are taken are on file in Press Service Room 414 A. Phone Gene Harrison at 6031.)

From New York Times, April 29 -

SOAP PRICES CUT 10% BY 3 MAJOR CHAINS; A. & P., GRAND UNION, SAFEWAY ACT -- QUEENS EXPERIMENT TO 'SCALE' REDUCTIONS - Three retail chains cut prices 10 per cent on soaps and soap products yesterday as housewives and merchants throughout the nation experimented with several plans for checkmating the rising cost of living.

The Atlantic and Pacific, Grand Union and Safeway companies marked down all soap stocks an average of 10 per cent without waiting for the new supplies on which soap manufacturers announced a 10 per cent price reduction last week.

While the "Newburyport Plan" of across-the-board price cuts of 10 per cent in retail stores gained adherents in scattered shopping centers, variations of it or substitute plans for price-cutting were pushed in other communities.

Two hundred and fifty merchants in the borough of Queens were working out details of the "Jackson Heights Plan," which they will present on Thursday as a rival to the "Newburyport Plan" in Massachusetts. The newer plan, which its sponsors maintain has a sounder economic base than the "Newburyport Plan," will scale price cuts according to the nature of the products and the amounts of the customary mark-ups. Food stores, for instance, will make smaller price reductions than specialty shops or furniture houses.

TALKS OPEN MAY 5 ON TRADE CHARTER; DATE IS ADVANCED IN GENEVA TO MEET DESIRE FOR CONCURRENT TARIFF NEGOTIATIONS - Geneva - The date for opening what is hoped will be the final round of discussion on the charter of the International Trade Organization has been advanced from May 15 to May 5.

This action conforms with the desire of the United States delegation to pursue charter discussions as far as possible simultaneously with the negotiation of the new trade agreements now in full swing at the Geneva trade conference.

HERBS USED AS SUBSTITUTE FOR TOBACCO IN BRITAIN - London - Looking for something to smoke? You take one ounce of powdered coltsfoot root, sprinkle in some rose leaves, lavender and clover flowers.

Britons by the thousands were turning to this outlandish mixture for the very good reason that "herb tobacco," scorned by most smokers until now, sells for as little as sixpence (10 cents) an ounce -- about one-seventh of the new higher price of pipe tobacco resulting from a 50 per cent increase in the tobacco import tax.

MILK PRICE CUT OPPOSED; JERSEY PRODUCERS FILE AN APPEAL AGAINST REDUCTION ORDER * Trenton - New Jersey milk producers appealed today from a proposed price drop for milk of a cent a quart. Their action would defer the effective date of the price change beyond Thursday, unless the State Milk Control Board dismisses their action sooner.

Lewis Dolan, counsel for the United Milk Producers, posed the question to the board: "Are farmers to be the only persons to suffer in reducing prices?"

From New York Times, April 29 -

HAHN SAYS PRICES MUST COME DOWN - Atlantic City - Lew Hahn, New York City, president, National Retail Dry Goods Association, said today American business men are facing the fact that prices will have to come down despite the views of many manufacturers, whose sincerity cannot be doubted, that prices cannot be lowered because of the current cost of production.

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From New York Wall Street Journal, April 29 -

FOOD PRICES COULD DIVE IF UNEMPLOYMENT MOUNTED SHARPLY - A little-publicized factor tied to today's stratospheric food costs is the huge amount of edibles now being eaten. Full employment means maximum food demand. Americans now gobble a per-capita average of 150 pounds of meat a year. The 1935-39 average was 126 pounds. Eggs are eaten at the rate of 400 per person a year. The pre-war average was 298.

And meat and eggs are just random examples. Compared with the pre-war average, per-capita consumption of cheese is up 25%, fluid milk and cream 25%, canned vegetables 46%, breakfast foods 35%. People are eating 26% more chickens, nearly 70% more turkeys. And guzzling of canned fruit juices is 271% above the pre-war rate.

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LAMB CHOPS GROW SCARCER AS LABOR COSTS DRIVE SHEEP RANCHERS OUT OF BUSINESS - Many sheep growers have given up. Others expect to. Operating costs of one of the top Montana sheep ranches last year came to \$12.52 a head. Expenses of the same ranch in 1939 were \$4.64 a head. This outfit of only \$8,000 in 1946. And much of this was money received from Liquidation of flocks. Excluding receipts from flock liquidation, the ranch's losses on wool amounted to eight cents for every pound produced.

The nation's sheep flock, cut almost in half in the past five years, is headed for further shrinkage, ranchers say. It's already the skimpiest since Civil War days.

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PRICES WEAKEN OVER A BROAD FRONT AS SPRING COMES IN - The Bureau of Labor Statistics' big wholesale price index has slipped three consecutive weeks. Its farm product component has sagged 5% in that time.

Prices of building materials as a group still hold firm. But lumber, the bellwether, is beginning to crack. And it may lead a long string of construction materials down hill. Reason: The expected spring house-building spree isn't "spreeing."

"Futures" markets point persistently to a steep slide ahead. Wheat and corn are now both promised for delivery in December at prices some 17% below the May delivery level. And December-delivery cotton sells 20% below the May-delivery level.

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From St. Louis (Mo.) Globe-Democrat, Apr. 22 -

GROCERS' HEAD RAPS TRUMAN'S PRICE PLEA - Price cuts demanded by President Truman were assailed last night by William Richardson, president of the Individual Retail Grocers and Meat Dealers Association of St. Louis at an association board meeting.

"How can President Truman explain his price cut appeal," Richardson demanded, "with \$160,000,000 in the budget for subsidies to farmers to keep food subsidies to farmers to keep food prices up?"

His attack was supported by J. W. Stevens, association field secretary, who declared, "If there is any way to cut prices, we'll do it, but with the highest overhead in history confronting us, President Truman will have to show us how."

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From Memphis (Tenn.) Commercial Appeal, Apr. 20 -

COTTON MEN REQUEST DEADLINE EXTENSION; CONTEND IT'S NOT POSSIBLE TO CLEAR SHIPMENTS FROM PORTS BY JUNE 30 - Extension of the June 30 deadline on cotton export shipments under the subsidy program was urged yesterday by the members of the Southern Cotton Shippers Association in annual convention.

Setting out that it is physically impossible to load and clear the shipments from the ports within the time required, the association recommended to its parent organization, the American Cotton Shippers Association, that immediate action be sought from the Commodity Credit Corporation on an extension.

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From Hartford (Conn.) Times, Apr. 19 -

FARMERS SENSE PRICE CUT - Editorial - Since farmers sell more than they buy -- that's how they make a profit -- any general price lowering is bad news to them.

They see signs of a general price recession definitely approaching. They are alarmed.

President Truman's pleading for it did not disturb them particularly. But the tell-tale signs of accumulating supplies of staple commodities and significant evidences of shrinking demand are not to be lightly dismissed.

That the growers of cotton, corn, wheat, cattle and hogs expect a price recession to gain momentum is most clearly evident from their appeal to the farm bloc in the Senate and House to stand guard against cuts in the price-supporting subsidies.

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From Philadelphia (Pa.) Bulletin, Apr. 23 -

FOOD FOR ALL - Editorial - Worries over what may happen to farm prices after 1948, when the present price support program ends, brought from Secretary of Agriculture Anderson suggestions of a food-for-all plan. It is the Secretary's idea that food should be assured everyone in the United States by the Government, even if the Government has to pay for it.

Secretary Anderson takes his cue from the existing school lunch program, by which the Federal Government helps thousands of children to get enough to eat.

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From Greenville (S.C.) News, Apr. 21 -

FARM AID AND PRICES - Editorial - On Monday of last week Secretary of Agriculture Clinton P. Anderson was quoted as saying in a speech at Richmond that rising prices were increasing the government's financial burden under the price-support program.

The next day he said in Washington that current price-support activities are minor and are exerting almost no effect on food prices.

These statements are not contradictory, as they may seem to be at first glance, because the Secretary was referring to two separate phases of the food price situation.

The government's price-support program is based on "parity" farm prices which in turn are based on the cost of living on the farm in relation to the cost of consumer goods generally. When parity prices go up, the government's financial burden increases because it is obligated to support farm prices at higher levels.

The government's financial burden will become heavier if and when the prices of farm products in the program break and go lower than parity prices. It is the expectation that this will happen which apparently is worrying Secretary Anderson and should be causing the farmers some concern as well. In all probability Congress will be unwilling to appropriate huge sums of money to support prices excessively above true economic values.

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From Atlanta (Ga.) Journal, Apr. 21 -

FAIR PLAY FOR MARGARINE - Editorial - The fight is on again in Congress to repeal the discriminatory taxes on margarine. Sen. Olin D. Johnston and Rep. Mendel Rivers, both of South Carolina, have introduced companion bills for this purpose, and committee hearings soon will begin. Year after year public interest in the issue has widened until it is now a matter of keen concern to farmers, processors and consumers throughout the United States.

Margarine is made principally from the oil of cottonseed, soybeans and peanuts and is enriched with vitamins. It is produced under the most sanitary conditions and conforms to all requirements of the pure food laws. Its coloring substance is no different from that added to butter in seasons when dairy herds lack green pasturage. It is as natural a food product as butter and altogether as wholesome, according to the testimony of scientists and dietetic authorities.

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From Indianapolis (Ind.) Star, Apr. 23 -

FERTILIZER SHORTAGE MAY CURTAIL CROPS - The Indiana farms and truck marketers need 15 to 25 per cent more fertilizer than they will get this year. Some places the supply will be 40 per cent short of meeting demand.

While it's very likely that this will be a record production year for fertilizer, it still won't come up to needs. For one thing, the farmers want to put more soil-building reinforcements into play after the drain of war years. Also the East and South are using more and more. They have been greater users in the past than many parts of the Midwest, anyway.

Actually, fertilizers -- with more strength taken into consideration -- are about one-third as costly as they were in the 1920s.

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Reserve

DAILY FARM NEWS DIGEST
(For April 28, 1947)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Office of Information
Washington 25, D.C.

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A2D14

(The newspapers and magazines from which these agricultural items are taken are on file in Press Service, Room 414 A. Phone Gene Harrison at 6031.)

From New York Times, April 28 -

BASIC, WIDER CUTS IN PRICES SOUGHT TO FIGHT INFLATION: NEWBURYPORT PLAN HELD GOOD SO FAR AS IT GOES BUT MORE ARE URGED TO ADOPT IT-A more basic and permanent reduction in prices than the "Newburyport Plan" was demanded yesterday by consumers and some business leaders here and in Washington.

Leon H. Keyserling, vice chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers, said price cuts already made on some items were "encouraging" but did "not measure up to what needs to be done."

He called for "systematic and orderly price reductions on a large enough scale to be significant" in those industries where prices were still too high. He spoke over the Columbia Broadcasting System.

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GROCERS' GROUP HEAD URGES LOWER PRICES-The food industry must deliver the prices it promised the consumer when it sought removal of controls, Patsy D'Agostino, president of the National Association of Retail Grocers warned over the weekend. In a letter urging cooperation of food suppliers in the nationwide campaign of independent retailers to obtain lower food prices.

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HIGH PRICES LAID TO 'BIG BUSINESS'; TRUMAN URGED TO ACT-Washington-The National Federation of Small Business charged today that big business is responsible for "artificially high" price levels, and called upon President Truman and Congress for more effective antitrust laws and enforcement.

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BAN ON IMPORT OF JAPAN COTTON BY PRIVATE BUYERS SET ASIDE-Washington-The United States Commercial Company announced today that henceforth private buyers would be allowed to bring Japanese cotton piece goods to this country for finishing and re-export to other countries.

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FOOD PRICES-Editorial-The Senate-House Committee on the Economic Report, under the chairmanship of Senator Taft, has announced plans to make its own study of the question of high prices and rising cost of living. One encouraging feature of the proposed inquiry is that it places the chief emphasis where it properly belongs, namely, on farm and food prices. Since 1939 farm prices have risen 140 percent, whereas prices other than farm and food have risen only 60 percent and iron and steel prices have risen about 30 percent. The unbalance which prevails in the price structure today is due primarily to this very sharp rise in food prices and farm prices.

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From N. Y. Journal of Commerce, April 28 -

HIGHER GRAIN MARGINS PROVE EFFECTIVE CURB-Washington-J. M. Mehl, Administrator of the Commodity Exchange Authority, said today that increased margin requirements adopted by grain exchanges in March materially lessened the danger of "a boom and bust market."

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GRANGE SUBMITS BROAD FARM PLAN-Washington-The National Grange handed Congress at the week-end a sweeping farm program calling for a national "economy of abundance."

Albert S. Goss, grange master who presented the plan to the House Agriculture Committee, said potential surpluses from a 35 percent increase in farm production "when and if war caused demands cease" constitute "the heart of the farm program."

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WIDE LEVELING OFF IN LUMBER PRICES BEINGS: BIG DIP SEEN BY YEAREND-Lumber prices have begun to level off throughout the country, laying the basis for a substantially lower price level before the end of the year, both manufacturers and distributors reported over the weekend.

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GE RAISES PRICES, RETAIL CUTS SPREAD-President Truman's price reduction drive received a sharp setback yesterday from industrial quarters. In the face of both Washington pressure and scattered price cuts of last week, the General Electric Co. announced that it will increase prices an average of 7 percent, following conclusion of a wage agreement for 15c an hour raises.

At the same time, the National Association of Manufacturers disclosed that only one of every five members replying to a questionnaire reported price cuts on at least one product since the beginning of the year.

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From Baltimore Sun, April 28 -

NEWBURYPORT PRICE-CUTTING WINS SUPPORT-New York-The Newburyport Plan of ten percent across the board retail price cuts is receiving widely scattered support an Associated Press survey showed today.

Meanwhile, President Truman's pleas for price cutting received some industrial support.

In Newburyport, Mass. where the antiinflation experiment originated, retail merchants reported yesterday's sales were 40 percent above a normal Saturday, and attributed it to shoppers flocking in from surrounding communities.

The ten percent cuts originally were scheduled to run for ten days in that city, but sponsors of the idea are considering indefinite continuance.

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From Nashville Tennessean, Apr. 18 -

AMMO WITH A BACKFIRE - Editorial - Parity price support on hogs was hiked \$1.35 this week by the Department of Agriculture. That announcement looks like ready ammunition for the anti-OPA, anti-New Deal, anti-administration guns. The only trouble is that the ammunition has a tremendous back-kick.

Of late the big time profiteers who killed OPA for the purpose, as Mr. Truman suggested recently, of going "whole hog for profits" have been explaining that most of the lifting power in the price balloon has come from zooming farm prices. And of course the administration and its agricultural bureaucracy are responsible for that.

The falsity of the explanation is obvious when it is realized that market prices for farm goods are far above parity. The government hiked the parity price on hogs by \$1.35. But parity is still \$10 per hundred less than market price.

The administration's support policy has made agricultural prices as cheap as they are. Without the encouragement given to farmers to expand production, nobody below the \$10,000 class would or could be eating bacon today. And hams would be as rare as canvasback duck.

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From Reno (Nev.) Gazette, Apr. 16 -

PRICES AFTER TWO YEARS - Editorial - If price trends after V-J day had followed the pattern of the period after the first world war, the declines which economists are finally predicting would have been noticeable months ago. It is now some twenty months after the end of hostilities in the second world war, but the real drop in prices after world war I began just eighteen months after the armistice.

During the eighteen months between November, 1918, and May, 1920, the general wholesale price level had risen 23 per cent. In the twenty months between August, 1945, and April, 1947, it has risen 41 per cent.

However, it has risen in 1947 from a lower base. The wholesale price index of the United States bureau of labor statistics at the end of March, 1947, was still eighteen points lower than at the peak of world war I prices in May, 1920.

The most important question being discussed by economists and laymen today is whether any general price decline now will last as long and be as precipitous as the price decline of 1920. There are a number of reasons for doubting that post-war economic history of more than a quarter-century ago will be repeated.

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From Green Bay (Wis.) Press-Gazette, Apr. 17 -

NEEDS OF THE DAIRY INDUSTRY - Editorial - A grade of evaporated milk that a working man can carry in his lunch box, open, mix with water and use as a meal-time beverage is certainly one of the great needs of the dairy industry as George E. Holm, chief of the research division of the federal bureau of dairy industry, recently told Wisconsin dairymen.

Such a discovery would certainly bring a tremendous boom to the evaporated milk industry and would go far toward eliminating the great waste of milk protein, of which Mr. Holm complains. It is his opinion that only 50.8 per cent of milk protein is now used for human food. Another great need which Mr. Holm mentions is for a consumer size package of natural cheese of one or two pounds.

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From Jackson (Miss.) Clarion-Ledger, Apr. 14 -

SPRING ON THE FARM AND EVERYTHING LOOKS GOOD - Editorial - It's the time of year when a farm looks good. Even this year, when winter hung on so stubbornly, the lure of the country is making itself felt, and in earnest, too. The United States Department of Agriculture reports that a million veterans are coming back to the farms. Half of them are starting out on a new career of farming. The rest are members of farm families, many taking over home farms from their fathers who have been holding on through the war, and are pretty tired.

Most of the new farmers are going at the business in a scientific manner. County agents round them up and hold evening meetings. They attend dairy improvement exhibits, stock shows, read technical farm journals, listen to state agricultural lecturers. When the farmer buys a tractor, his wife is apt to buy a dishwashing machine. When he contracts for 5,000 feet of electric fence for the pasture, she gets an electric refrigerator for the house. Bills? Debts? Rent? Mortgage money? They expect to meet it all. They are young. Farm prices have been good. Even if prices drop, as many think they will, they do not only expect to get by but are determined to do so.

It's a heartening story of young America going at an old vital business in a new way.

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From Richmond (Va.) Times-Dispatch, Apr. 22 -

ANOTHER APPEAL TO REASON - Editorial - Because a severe business slump in the United States must inevitably be followed by a world slump, President Truman yesterday again called for "moderation by business, forbearance by labor, all-out effort by farmers, and a solid front against tax cuts."

If the various elements in the national economy comply with the President's request, another spiral of inflation can be nipped in the bud, and the threat of a severe depression will vanish.

In repeating his appeal to common sense, the President this time made no threats and no promises. He did not seek to intimidate business by pledging labor his support of demands for still higher wages in the event that the cost of living continues to rise. Nor did he promise business immunity from antitrust laws as an inducement to a concerted price-control by business. He merely stated the case as it stands, outlined the alternative, and let it go at that.

This is a chance for business, industry, and labor to prove to totalitarian prophets of doom that the capitalist economy can avert a crisis without governmental coercion. Should it fail to do so, the advocates of bureaucratic control and straitjacket security will be able to gloat, "I told you so."

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From St. Louis (Mo.) Post-Dispatch, Apr. 21 -

TOMATOES HIGHEST IN FIFTY YEARS OF DEALER'S MEMORY - Tomatoes were selling on Produce Row here this morning at the highest price in the 50 years' marketing experience of one dealer, and will go still higher toward the end of the week, it was reported. Dealers are charging about \$9.50 for a lug of 25 to 30 pounds, as compared with a normal price of \$4 or \$5, and last week's figures of \$6.

Rains and frost in Florida have washed out that usual source of supply for tomatoes and green peppers, dealers explained.

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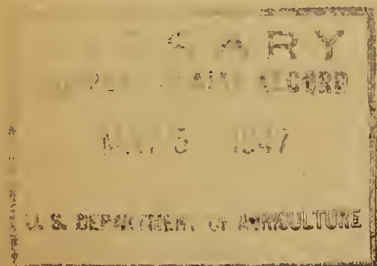
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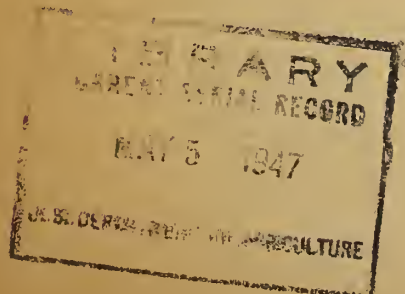
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Office of Information
Washington 25, D.C.

(The newspapers and magazines from which these agricultural items are taken are on file in Press Service, Room 414A. Phone Gene Harrison at 6031.)

From New York Times, April 9 -

SENATE SENDS BILL BACK TO HOUSE FOR ACCORD ON CHANGES-VOTES FARM LABOR AID-
Washington-A bill to continue the Federal farm labor supply program through 1947 was approved by the Senate by a voice vote today. The measure, which authorizes the Government to supply farm hands from Mexico, Jamaica and other places as well as domestic regions, now goes back to the House for consideration of changes made by the Senate.

The program of worker aid to American farmers will expire on June 30 unless renewed.

Just before final passage, Senators shouted down a proposal by Senator James P. Kem, Republican, of Missouri, to spread the cost of the program to the Government among farmers who employ the imported foreign workers. The cost for the last six months of this year is estimated at \$10,000,000.

The Senate bill provides a thirty day period beyond Dec. 31 for liquidating the program. The House measure does not provide this.

FAT SALVAGE HERE UP BY 164% IN 7 MONTHS-Household fat salvage has increased since last October by 164 percent, the American Fat Salvage Committee reported yesterday. The increase was attributed to more plentiful supplies of meat and greater conservation by housewives because of higher prices paid now for used fats and kitchen greases. The salvage price, formerly 4 cents a pound, has gone up to 16 cents in some butcher shops.

Despite the increased collection, the committee said, the domestic supply of industrial fats and oils is still far below the need. A Government estimate sets the shortage for the first six months of this year at 150,000,000 pounds, compared with a year ago.

A national survey, according to the committee, indicated that 87 percent of the women who turn in salvaged fats were saving frying pan grease, 61 percent were also salvaging roast drippings and 48 percent broiler drippings, but only 32 percent saved meat trimmings, 12 percent skimmed fat from soups, and only 7 percent rendered down the scraps from the dinner table.

CARGO IS PILED UP BY LACK OF SHIPS-Low rate export cargo is piling up on the docks in increasing quantities because of lack of shipping space, it was reported yesterday. A number of complaints are being received from exporters who are unable to ship cement, flour and autos despite good market demand, Department of Commerce officials state.

The basic problem, traders stated, is that shippers are unwilling to take low cost and hard to handle freight when they are able to obtain without difficulty high rate cargoes.

From New York Times, April 9 -

POTATO PEST CURB SIGNED BY DEWEY-Albany-The growing of potatoes or tomatoes in a 3,000-acre area centering around Hicksville, L.I., site of the only known golden nematode infestation in North America, can be barred by the State Department of Agriculture under a bill signed today by Governor Dewey.

If the Commissioner of Agriculture orders a farmer to cease growing potatoes or tomatoes, the Commissioner may make an agreement with him to compensate him for the loss of use of his land.

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From Wall Street Journal, April 9 -

COMMODITY MARKETS broke sharply on news that President Truman had summoned his Cabinet to a special "price conference." Wheat futures at Chicago declined 3 5/8 to 4 5/8 cents; corn was off 1 5/8 to 4 cents; cotton showed losses ranging up to \$3.70 a bale. The Dow Jones futures index experienced its severest drop since last October 29. It closed at 131.54, off 2.80.

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MORE FREIGHT CARS NEEDED-Editorial-In yesterday's issue this newspaper's Chicago office reported a sharp increase during the preceding week in number of freight cars ordered and "inquiries" concerning terms and delivery schedules. This spurt of ordering follows the recent agreement between steel and car building companies on mutual efforts to step up this year's output of cars, if possible to the level of 10,000 a month.

In the same issue appeared a summary of a report from the Association of American Railroads, disclosing that in the first 13 weeks of 1947 freight car loadings had exceeded those of any like season since 1930.

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From N.Y. Journal of Commerce, April 9 -

GOVERNMENT ACTION ON PRICES-Editorial-The Administration is right in focussing public attention upon prices. But it is even more important that the people be informed correctly of why prices have gone up, and how a further rise can be avoided. Merely to broadcast statements that prices are too high and should come down, without showing why they have risen and stating explicitly what must be done to bring them down again, will confuse public thinking and could do far more harm than good.

Two factors are chiefly responsible for the price rise this year. These are shortages of farm commodities and the rising trend of wages. So long as these forces continue to operate, it is not going to be possible to halt the price rise except by restoring the whole cumbersome and distasteful machinery of OPA, and even then prices may be stabilized at the cost of curtailing production.

The marketing of new crops will automatically take care of the farm price problem. Until the harvests, every effort should be made to minimize the effect upon agricultural prices of Government buying for relief abroad. Other than that, the Government can do little.

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